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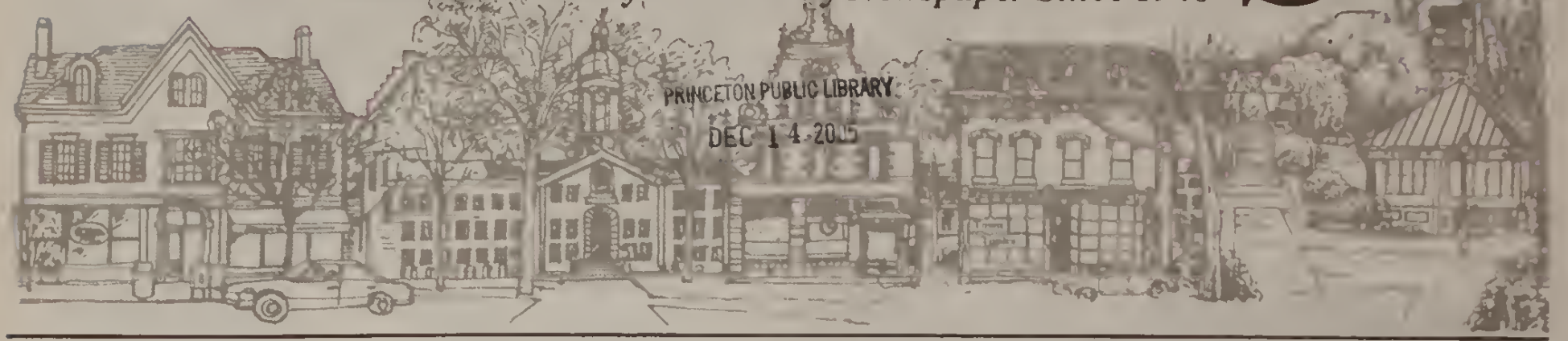

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Storm Closes Schools, Causes Few Problems In Borough, Township

Leaving behind a landscape of gingerbread houses and diamond-crusted trees, a fast-moving snowstorm that threw four to six inches of the fluffy, white stuff on Princeton closed schools on Friday, but caused relatively few other problems for area residents, according to Princeton police and public works officials.

"We had more accidents on Thursday than we had on Friday," Borough Police Lieutenant Dennis McManimon said, referring to the day before the storm.

"We didn't have any traffic problems on Friday; public works got the streets cleared quickly," he said, adding that people tend to drive more carefully in bad weather.

As for the accidents on Thursday, which numbered 10, he had no explanation. "Sometimes we just have a bad day," he said.

The snow pulled the first of Borough public works personnel out of bed early with a scheduled round of salting set for 2 a.m. and plowing by 4 a.m., Wayne Carr, the Borough's director of public works, said.

Continued on Page 2

Planners Hold UMCP Zoning at Bay

The Regional Planning Board held off a vote Thursday night on future zoning of the site currently occupied by the University Medical Center at Princeton (UMCP). The board had been widely expected to come to a resolution on zoning guideline changes in the Princeton Community Master Plan, but members said more time was needed to assess the proposed changes.

Proposed zoning revisions that have circulated within the Planning Board's Master Plan Subcommittee for months include a floor area and density not to exceed approximately 440,000 square feet and up to 280 residential units built in the Borough portion of the site, though that number could fall if an increased number of two-bedroom units are added to the mix.

With the recent announcement that the hospital will leave Princeton for the FMC Corporation site on the north side of Route 1 in Plainsboro, any future development of the current site, likely in the form of a mix of residential and commercial use, needs to be preceded by zoning changes to the 12-acre hospital block.

The Planning Board has arrived at a consensus that any new structures built on the site should avoid a "monolithic appearance." It is expected, however, that any new development will include the reuse of the hospital's two eight-story towers. Barry Rabner, president and CEO of Princeton HealthCare System (PHCS), the hospital's parent company, announced two weeks ago that the site would be purchased and developed by the Philadelphia-based firm Lubert-Adler.

Princeton University has been named the contract purchaser of PHCS's nine-acre Merwick Care Center on Bayard Lane, and the surface parking lot on Franklin Avenue, adjacent to the hospital.

Mr. Rabner has said that the construction of a new, $350 million hospital, with a target opening date of Spring 2010, is largely contingent on the sale of the hospital's land holdings and that costs related to materials and labor will rise as a proposed 2007 groundbreaking is delayed.

Once the Planning Board decided that it would not act to change the Master Plan, Mr. Rabner quickly exited the hearing while it was still in progress.

In a November interview held before Plainsboro was identified as the intended location of UMCP, Mr. Rabner said that delays in a groundbreaking for a new facility could result in a loss of nearly $40,000 a day.

Exacerbating the construction-related cost increases, he added, is the rising cost of oil due to Hurricane Katrina's

Continued on Page 8

With E-Quad, an Old Issue Opens New Wounds for Borough and University

Last night Princeton Borough Council was scheduled to consider an ordinance that, if passed, would change the building capacity of the Borough's E-3 zone, encompassing, in large part, the area that comprises Princeton University's Engineering Quadrangle, commonly known as the "E-Quad."

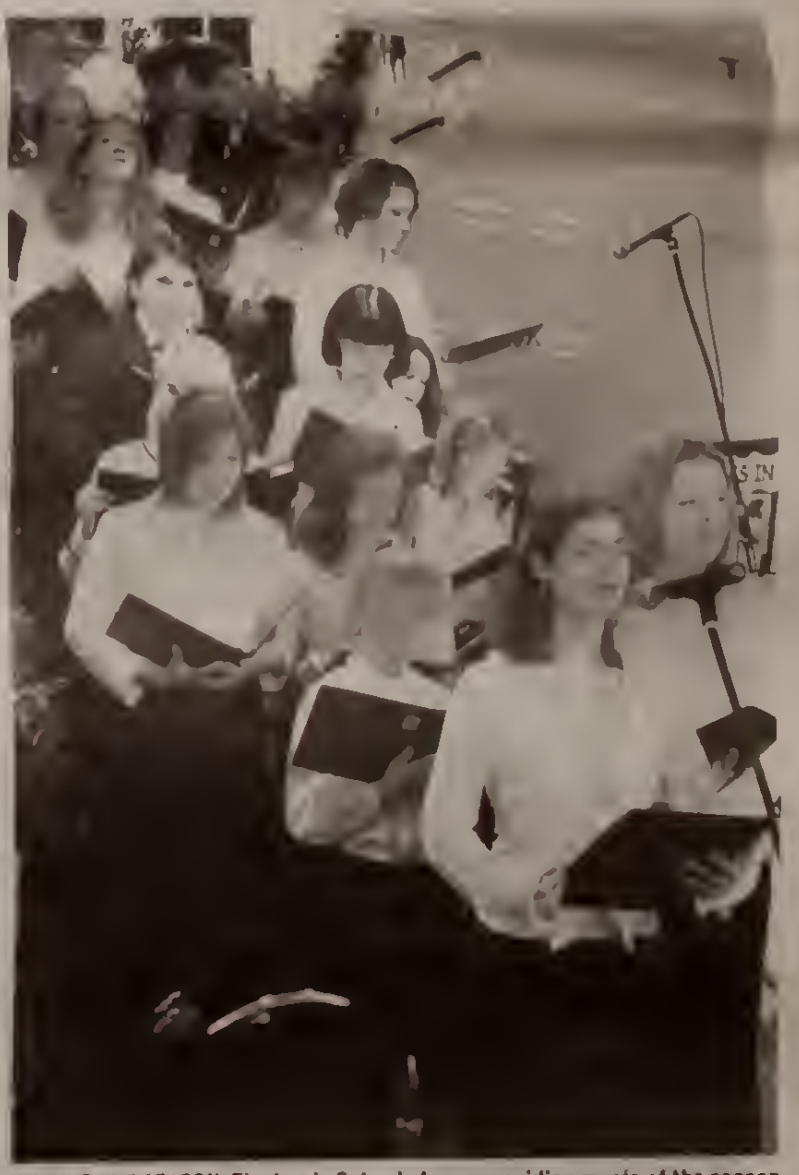
The results of that hearing played out well after Town Topics went to press, but to many residents, the ordinance has led to a stand-off between a University seeking to grow within the town whose name it bears, and a municipality that wants additional financial support from the institution.

As Princeton University seeks the zoning change that would increase the development capacity from the current 200,000 square feet to 300,000 in the E-3 (outlined roughly by Washington Road, Murray Place, William Street, and Prospect Avenue), the Borough Council, as have many residents, repeated the familiar call for an increase in the University's annual voluntary financial contribution to the Borough which reached some $800,000 in 2005.

The ordinance specifically targets the E-Quad portion of the E-3 site running from Olden to just near Murray Place. The primary reason for the desired increase in square-footage capacity is so the University can build a home for the Princeton Institute for the Science and Technology of Materials.

Identifying a potential problem with neighbors in the Murray Place neighborhood, University representatives worked with them to ensure that there would be proper landscape buffering, that any new construction would be low-level and low-impact, and that the University's shuttle system, P-Rides, would preclude the need for additional parking to attract more cars.

Continued on Page 6



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Storm

continued from page one

In the township, the situation was similar, with a thorough salting of streets followed by plowing rounds when accumulations built up enough for trucks to push it, said Don Hansen, superintendent of public works in the Township.

Both municipalities contended with the problem of snow-covered leaf piles, a consequence of early snows. And it meant that crews had to continue clean-up rounds even after the plowing stopped.

Early commuter Brendan Lynch, who grabs a train for his job as an analyst at Lehman Brothers in Manhattan, said he wasn't able to find his morning newspaper under a blanket of fresh snow, but he was still able to get to work with little mishap.

"I couldn't find the Wall Street Journal under four inches of snow, so I had to read the New York Post on the way in," Mr. Lynch said, regretting that his reading material hadn't helped boost his business day.

Later, when children were waking up to the news that schools were closed, it was "snowing snowballs," according to one 9-year-old's apt description.

But the storm moved quickly, leaving blue skies in its wake by early afternoon.

"It was an impressive storm. It was moving very quickly, dropping two to three inches of snow an hour," said New Jersey state climatologist at Rutgers University, David Robinson.

It was heavy snow because it changed over briefly to rain before going back to snow, making shoveling difficult. But its consistency and abundance seemed to inspire school age kids, who produced a bumper crop of snow people that continue to line the streets and lanes of Princeton as cold temperatures have lingered.

"It's crusty on the top, but soft and powdery underneath," said Sarah Schwartz, 15, who made a snowman with a friend in the front yard of her Borough home.

When asked when she last had made a snowman on her front yard, she said. "It's been far too long."

Friday's storm wasn't the area's first snow of the season; but it was the biggest. "There were three significant snow events during the first full week of December," Mr. Robinson said.

"We had snow Sunday morning, Tuesday morning, and on Friday," Mr. Robinson said, putting Princeton's snow tally for December so far at 10 inches, including three inches on Sunday, 1.5 inches on Tuesday, and an average 5.5 inches on Friday.

"It's not unusual to have snow in early December," Mr. Robinson said, "but it's unusual to have three plowable snow events in early December."

In three of the last four years, Princeton has had snow in early December, according to Mr. Robinson. Six inches fell on Dec. 6, 2002 and a foot dropped on December 6 and 7, 2003, and this year there has been 10 inches so far.

Central New Jersey got the brunt of Sunday's snow, he added.

But on Friday, snow accumulations in the state varied from one inch along the coast to 10 inches in the upper northwestern areas, Mr. Robinson said.

He said the Route 1 corridor was a dividing line, with areas south of Route 1 getting an early changeover to sleet and rain that kept totals down.

The storm "exploded off the coast of New Jersey," causing snow with thunder in some areas, and damage on Cape Cod due to hurricane force winds, Mr. Robinson said.

While the snow kept Princeton schools closed, the Princeton Regional School District doesn't build any snow days into its calendar. Instead, every day schools are closed, a day is added to the end of the school year.

It remains to be seen whether the week's weather will mean more than average snowfall for the season. Records suggest, however, that "when you get off to a snowy start, more often than not, you end up with frequent enough storms and frequent enough cold weather, to get above-average snowfall," Mr. Robinson said. "For some reason, a pattern locks in."

—Becky Melvin

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Corrections

A December 7 report about planned changes to the Princeton Shopping Center incorrectly stated that the Regional Planning Board of Princeton considers resident petitions. The Planning Board does not regard petitions as testimony when considering an application.

A November 30 photo caption that ran in the "Home for the Holidays" holiday supplement inaccurately described the proceeds from a recent wine-tasting, silent auction, and art exhibit hosted by Mercer Engine #3 as being used for "gifts" honoring the volunteer firefighters. The proceeds will be used for equipment and related materials for the Princeton Fire Department.

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CREATIVE TIE TO THE COMMUNITY: Karyn and Michael Greco of Princeton, far right, celebrated the grand opening of their new store, Red Green Blue, on Hulfish Street Friday. The aim of the store, Ms. Greco said, is to bring out the artist in everyone. Also pictured are, from left, Asm. Reed Gusciora (D-Princeton Borough), Princeton Township Mayor Phyllis Marchand, and Princeton Borough Mayor Mildred Trotman.

(Photo by George Vogel)

With a Trio of Colors, New Shop Marks Where Craft and Imagination Merge

Karyn and Michael Greco used to be the classic left-brainers: business school graduates, formerly employed (between the two of them) by Dow Jones, 3M, Four Seasons Hotels, and Amtrak. But this Princeton couple had known for quite some time that the creative streak within them was just waiting to emerge.

As it turns out, the basic color principles found in the primary colors was all they needed to unleash that creativity. Red Green Blue celebrated its grand opening Friday at the location formerly occupied by the Corkscrew Wine Shop in the

TOPICS
Of the Town

Hulfish Building on Hulfish Street. Call it what you will, this store is more than a gallery (though they sell an array of art pieces), and more than a workshop (though it functions as an art studio where children and adults are encouraged to create functional and artistic items out of materials provided for them). It's really a place where an artist, aspiring artist, or a consumer can go to satisfy any artistic urge.

It also marks the fruition of an artistic urge that the Grecos hope will launch a long-term career change.

"We worked in corporate America for nearly 20 years, and for a long time, I thought 'wouldn't it be neat?'" said Ms. Greco as she took a break from helping Michael, a 12-year-old who came in with his grandmother so he could design a plate made from pieces of colored glass.

This plate, intended to be a gift for Michael's mother, will move to the glass oven where, when completed, it will bear the likeness of a sail boat cruising in front of a sunset.

It may be the work of an amateur, Ms. Greco said, but for some, it has the same value as a professional piece.

"Our customers get a variety of options to express themselves the way they'd like to," said Ms. Greco. Other media, she added, include papier-mâché, sculpture, works on paper, wood, T-shirts, and sand art.

"It's a place where people can be themselves to create something special," she said.

The Grecos had long nursed the idea of creating a place where people not typically involved in the arts could express themselves. That possibility began to take shape a few years ago, Ms. Greco said, when painting your own pottery, in the vein of Color Me Mine at the Princeton Shopping Center, became increasingly popular.

Once they had children, the couple found the idea all the more intriguing because they had both been commuting to Manhattan; now they would have an opportunity to do what they love closer to home.

The move, Ms. Greco said, was risky, but one she and her husband were willing to take "at the right time.

"We felt like this was it and we were ready to create the store," she said, adding that she is "so pleased" with the initial response. "We are appreciative of all the people who have looked in the window and are willing to explore."

Most surprisingly, Ms. Greco added, is the volume of adults who will come in during their lunch hour to exercise a creative impulse.

As with the children, all

Continued on Next Page

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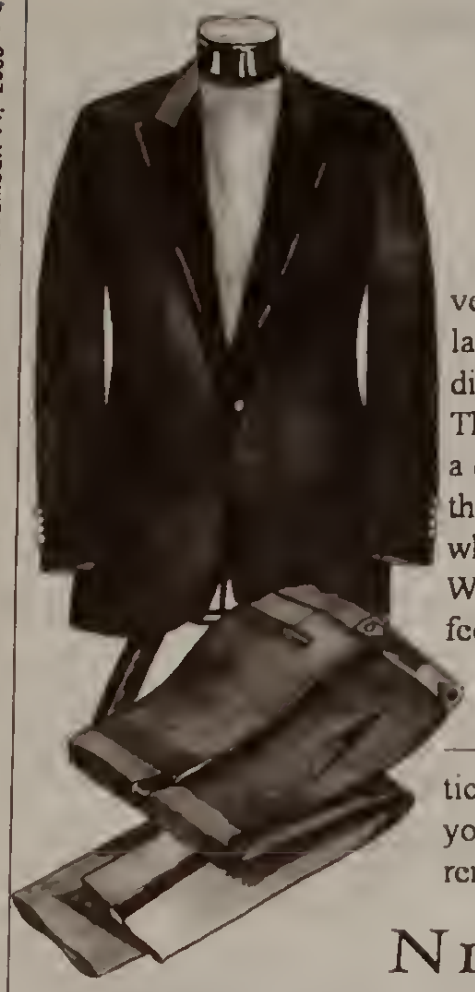

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Griswold Lorillard invented this tailless black, silk-lapel evening jacket to wear to dinners at the Tuxedo Club. The English still simply call it a dinner jacket. "Tuxedo" is the Mohawk word for "he who has a round foot." Right. We don't get it either. Two left feet, maybe.

You can find tuxedos — and those long, white satin ties and band-collar shirts, like you see at the Oscars — at a rental shop.

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Trio of Colors

Continued from Page 3

would-be artists who choose to work on a project in the store are supervised and assisted as needed — especially when it comes to working with glass, which involves small, pre-rounded pieces. However, some glass cutting is necessary, and goggles are required while cutting.

The Greco's location is clearly not to be discounted: it lies directly adjacent to the Princeton Public Library and around the corner from the Arts Council of Princeton. Ms. Greco said some union between her store and artistic programming at the Library or Arts Council was not out of the question.

"I think we could have a whole bunch of fun and big ideas together."

The pricing is set by size and correlates with one of the primary colors: red, green, or blue. There is no studio fee and no cost to "firing" glass, which can take several hours.

But that aside, the Grecos, with children ages 3 and 6, simply wanted to be in an environment where they could encourage creativity while discovering their own.

Ms. Greco added that neither she nor her husband would meddle with their customers' creative processes: "Be proud of your work, and do a great job."

—Matthew Hersh

Topics In-Brief:
A Community Bulletin

The follow-up meeting on **Pine Street Park** will take place on December 20 at 7 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at Princeton Borough Hall. The park has been subject to a potential renaming and redesign following the February death of David Bradford, a Pine Street resident and professor of economics and public affairs at Princeton University. The 66-year-old Prof. Bradford died after sustaining injuries in a house fire. Comments from neighbors were incorporated into a final design for a rehabilitation project slated for the spring 2006. Improvements could include replacing the overgrown, older plantings with new shrubs and hedges, said Andrew Koontz, the Borough Councilman who is also a founder of the Princeton Parks Alliance. Other work could include improvement of some of the stone patio work, and moving the entrance of the park more toward the center, allowing space for a small garden plot that could maintained by the neighbors. The old "whirl" toy will also be replaced with a new one.

Princeton Community Housing will celebrate the groundbreaking of its planned senior housing facility, Elm Court II, this coming Monday, December 19, at 2 p.m. at 300 Elm Road.

The Princeton-based **Coalition for Peace Action** will hold its annual Candlelight Vigil for Peace on Earth on Monday, December 19, from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Nassau Presbyterian Church, followed by a potluck dinner at the church from 6 to 7 p.m. The dinner will conclude with a talk by Dr. Robert Nelson, a Princeton University physicist who was an advocate of abolishing the nuclear weapon "the bunker buster."

Princeton Junior League Seeks Scholarship Applicants

The Junior League of Greater Princeton is seeking scholarship applications for the 2006 Junior League of Greater Princeton Voluntarism Scholarship Program. This program sponsors two $1,500 scholarships for students attending either college or vocational school. Scholarships are awarded in recognition of overall volunteer services or outstanding leadership in a community service project.

Although financial need is not a factor taken into consideration, all candidates must be female and reside in The Junior League of Greater Princeton service area (Mercer and Bucks counties and neighboring portions of Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth and Somerset counties). To request additional information please send an email to Info@jlgp.org. To download a scholarship application, please visit www.jlgp.org. Applications for the scholarship program are due no later than March 1, 2006.

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Borough Amends Affordable Housing Plan, But Vows to Revisit Code with Changes

Facing a state-imposed December 20 deadline to create new guidelines for affordable housing production, Borough Council approved 5-1 an ordinance that places an increased financial burden on developers of residential and non-residential housing.

Borough Council was expected to sign off on a complete fair share housing plan in its hearing last night, after Town Topics went to press. That plan, in addition to the Township's fair share plan, was unanimously endorsed Monday night by the Regional Planning Board of Princeton.

Citing burdens last week's approved ordinance place on both the land-starved municipality and homeowners, Council members vowed to revisit the law and make changes as necessary.

The law places the potential burden of a housing fee on the developer —$58,430 as set by the Borough—for increases to the municipality's residential housing stock.

The fee specifically targets outside developers and is intended to curb the $467,437 cost incurred by the Borough for the purchase and construction of a single affordable housing unit.

The round three COAH requirements, which are retroactive to 2004, require that one affordable housing unit be built for every eight market-rate units. The $58,430 fee is purposefully placed at one-eighth the cost incurred by the Borough.

And while that fee may not place financial impositions on larger-scale developers, it could cause trouble for the owners of owner-occupied homes, where a fee upwards of $60,000 could prove to be too steep a price tag.

Members of Council said that conversations were held about the improbable goal of collecting nearly $60,000 from a private homeowner who builds his or her own home, but that the fee needed to be included to collect from developers building four units or fewer—one of the mechanisms set by the Borough to encourage affordable housing.

"Putting this fee on a single-family house was a hard thing to do, because in a way, we're making it harder to build a single-family house, which is what we want to have built," said Councilwoman Wendy Benchley, who voted in favor of the ordinance.

"We're in a pact with the devil here, and it's not a happy pact."

Ms. Benchley indicated, as did Mayor Mildred Trotman, that language in the ordinance could be re-worded to lift the burden from residents like Anthony and Jennifer Arroyo, who are looking to build a 1,800-square-foot home on Humbert Lane. The Arroyos seem to be an ostensible casualty of the ordinance, which does not appear to levy the fee when a developer is the intended resident.

"We're not affluent, but I think we can afford to live in Princeton," said Mr. Arroyo, a Borough Police officer. Ms. Arroyo teaches Kindergarten at Riverside Elementary School.

In the meantime, however, the Borough needed to devise a plan in line with the COAH regulations that would be approved by the state, so the town can begin assessing developers for large-scale future development projects currently in the works, said Councilman David Goldfarb, pointing to developers like Princeton University and future development on the site currently occupied by the University Medical Center at Princeton. The University has yet to put forth a housing plan for the new COAH regulations. COAH has set the Borough's housing obligation through 2014 at 97 units.

In other business, Barbara Trelstad of Westcott Road was sworn in to fill the Council seat vacated by Mayor Mildred Trotman when she was named mayor last month. Ms. Trelstad will serve out the remainder of Ms. Trotman's term, which expires December 31.

— Matthew Hersh

Ace Housewares Opens in Princeton Shopping Center

Princeton Shopping Center recently announced the arrival of a new Ace Company store, Ace Housewares. The new store occupies 3,000 square feet on the North side of the Shopping Center, adjacent to Color Me Mine and Chestnut Tree Books. Ace Housewares features merchandise such as small appliances, cookware, kitchenware, storage and organization items, wooden furniture, knives and sharpening services, and specialty cleaning products.

Brothers George, Ed and Leigh Smith became Ace Hardware owners over sixty years ago, extending their empire from their original Yardville store to include three more locations. Chris Hanington, General Manager of Princeton Shopping Center commented, "Ace has been such a strong tenant at the Center for the past three years. We feel very fortunate to have yet another Smith's Ace business opening its doors here to offer our customers such quality merchandise and selection."

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LAUNCHING COMMUNITIES OF LIGHT 2005: Domestic violence service providers, community leaders, and the NJ State Police Lady/Team Blue & Gold officials gathered at the New Jersey state house recently to launch Communities of Light 2005. Pictured (from left) top row: Capt. Roe Manghisi, NJ State Police; Honorary Chair Marvin Reed; SFC Deb Faiello, NJ State Police; Committee Chair Women's Crisis Services Lu Ann Kidd; Marie Jackson, Women's Crisis Services; Capt. Anne Marie Grant, NJ State Police. Front row: Honorary Chair Ingrid Reed; Women Aware Executive Director Jackie Marich; and Womanspace Executive Director Patricia Hart.

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E-Quad

continued from page one

But by November 9, when the ordinance was introduced, several members of Borough Council had become increasingly concerned with the fact that as the University grew, it was creating a burden on the Borough's infrastructure and traffic flow that should be offset with a financial commitment reflecting the level of growth. Mayor Mildred Trotman, when first named mayor to fill the seat of the late Mayor Joe O'Neill, said that while the University had been kind "it hasn't been kind enough."

It is widely known that Mr. O'Neill had made significant in-roads with the University before his death. In fact, his adeptness at negotiation was, for the most part, the impetus behind his effective dissolving of a TAG (town-and-gown) group composed of Borough and University officials prior to his head-to-head negotiations.

In his December 2002 paper, "Princeton's Tax-Exempt Organizations and Payments in Lieu of Taxes," then-Councilman O'Neill questioned whether tax-exempt organizations such as the University paid a fair share when it came to municipal expenses. He cited an annual contribution to the Borough for the tax-exempt McCarter Theatre — commensurate with the actual amount the school would pay if the theater were on the tax rolls — and other payments in lieu of taxes (Pilots).

However, Mr. O'Neill worried that without the establishment of a metric, there would be little to dictate what an appropriate Pilot would be. Mr. O'Neill also criticized the inherent problems both the University and Borough face when it comes to grappling with the state's property tax system and the tax-exempt nature of the University.

Mr. O'Neill outlined four suggestions: one that measures the school's contribution "based on the services it uses;" one that measures the contribution in line with the amount the town loses in property tax exemptions; one that bases the contribution on what the Borough would collect if the University were a commercial enterprise; and one that mimics other similarly-sized communities with similarly-sized schools.

And while much of the school's lands are tax-exempted, the school is concurrently, however, the largest taxpayer in both Princeton Borough and Township, contributing approximately $8 million in property and sewer taxes in 2005.

This has caused several members of Borough Council, most notably Councilman Roger Martindell, to support the idea of re-inventing and re-invigorating the TAG team that Mr. O'Neill broke up. But in the meantime, those calls have brought to surface a perceived animosity between the two entities that has been noticed by several residents as well.

At Council's December 6 hearing, Charles St. John, the Prospect Avenue resident who routinely attends Council hearings with his wife Christine, charged the town and University with acting like "immature children" as they butt heads over what has turned into a toxic issue. Mr. St. John said both entities should be "bending over backwards" to accommodate one another, adding that the two would likely not exist, at least in their current forms, without each other. (See Mailbox, page 10)

"What the University does benefits everybody," Mr. St. John said in a separate interview, adding that the two "were not making beautiful music together."

Whether the relationship between the University and town will improve is yet to be seen, but it is clear that discussions held on the E-3 have made many residents skeptical.

Editor's Note: A brief summary of the Council's E-Quod decision will be posted todoy on Town Topics web site ot www.towntopics.com.

—Matthew Hersh

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Police Blotter

The PNC Bank at 842 State Road (Route 206) was robbed at approximately 11:42 a.m. yesterday, Township Police reported. The suspect, described as a black male 25 to 30 years old with a husky build, wearing a white jacket and dark ski cap, reportedly handed a teller a note demanding money. The suspect did not display a weapon, but led the teller to believe he had a gun or a bomb. The teller gave the man an amount of cash estimated to have been between $500 and $800, after which he fled the bank.

It is not known whether the robber left the scene in a vehicle or on foot. Shortly after Township Police arrived to secure the crime scene, an agent from the FBI's Trenton office was summoned to assist with the investigation.

There are no known suspects at this time. The investigation is being handled by Township Police officers Ernest Silagyi, Scott Porreca, and Anthony Pacillo.

On Thursday, December 8, an unidentified 18-year-old man was beaten and robbed shortly before noon as he was riding his bicycle through the commuter parking lot off Alexander Road near the Dinky Station. According to Township Police, the victim was attacked by three men, all described as black teenagers. The victim reportedly surrendered his pocket change to the assailants, after which he was struck from behind by a baseball bat, then kicked on the ground. The robbers then reached into his pants to remove his wallet containing paperwork and cash.

The injured victim was able to reach a pay phone to call 911; he was then taken to the Helene Fuld Medical Center for treatment.

The crime is being investigated by Township Det. Sgt. Scott Porreca.

TOWN TALK©

A forum for Princeton residents to express opinions about local and national issues.

Question of the Week:

"What are your feelings on the calls from Congress to bring the troops home from Iraq?"

"I think they are doing a good job over there — they should not be pulled out." — *Jack Rhubart, Leavitt Lane*

"I support the Congressmen who advocated coming up with a plan to extricate ourselves from Iraq – not necessarily on a quick timetable, but, at least to have a plan rather than simple rhetoric about 'staying the course.' That hasn't worked, so far."

— *William Burden (with Jackson), Maidenhead Road*

"A call for a decrease in the number of troops will only lead to a decrease in troop morale and an increase in the motivation of enemy combatants."

— *Michael Kratsios, sophomore, Princeton University*

"I think that it's understandable because of a lack of a clear exit strategy, but I also think that it undermines the efforts of the troops. So I think what these people should be focusing on is the definition of an exit strategy, rather than an off-the-cuff 'we have to get out.'"

— *Thomas MacIsaac (with Ainsley), Evergreen Circle*

"I think that the Congressional delegation should work towards getting us out of Iraq as quickly as possible."

— *Robert Stack, Valley Road*

Planning Board Okays Affordable Housing Goals for Both Borough and Township

With a December 20 deadline looming for both Princeton Borough and Township to submit affordable housing plans to the state's Council on Affordable Housing (COAH), the Regional Planning Board signed off on amending the Community Master Plan to include a fair share housing plan intended to provide affordable housing in the two municipalities through 2014.

The change comes on the heels of a significant planning process for both towns as they dealt with the often perceived as burdensome COAH requirements that create mandates commensurate with the towns' building plans.

Using phrases like "works in progress" and "moving targets," the housing goals — 97 units in the Borough, and 118 in Township — were presented as guidelines as to how the Planning Board needs to make developers responsible for future applications. Additionally, the housing consultants, Shirley Bishop in the Borough and Elizabeth McKenzie in the Township, both said the Planning Board and municipalities would be able to revisit the housing plans after they were submitted to the state.

Princeton University, which has not submitted a formal housing plan for its current and future development projects to the Borough or Township, will be required to provide 38 units in the Borough and 32 in the Township.

Current estimates provide that growth share obligation for the University, but it is subject to revision if the University is able to get itself reclassified as a different type of institution and not as simply a developer.

Affordable units currently in the works in the Borough include 29 at any future development of the Merwick Care Center site on Bayard Lane, 12 units each in the downtown redevelopment project and at Elm Court II, which is expected to break ground this coming Monday.

The Township has already been credited with affordable units at Karin Court and 46 units at Elm Court II. The Township also has a proposed 12 units to be constructed at the Princeton Community Village.

Princeton Borough Council was expected to sign off on its housing plan at last night's hearing after Town Topics went to press, with Township Committee weighing its housing ordinance at its December 19 session.

— Matthew Hersh

Seven Births Reported At Princeton Hospital

The Princeton HealthCare System has reported seven births to area residents during the week ending December 12.

Twin baby girls were born to Delaine and Michael Jodoin of Lawrenceville on December 7. Daughters were also born to Jennifer and Tedrick Schmelter, Lawrenceville, December 1; and Ana Maria and Sean McKessy, Princeton, December 8.

Sons were born to Kristen and Christopher Mason, Princeton, December 5; Lianying Shan and Fan Zhang, Princeton, December 6; and Sharlene Isaacson Whalen and Patrick Whalen, Princeton, December 12.

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UMCP Zoning

continued from page one

continuing impact on the Gulf Coast. Mr. Rabner also cited a building boom in China that has created a scarcity in steel for other construction products.

But with continuing resident concern over whether large buildings like the hospital's fit the Master Plan goals of creating projects in harmony with surrounding neighborhoods, and with questions over the affordable housing that will be included in any future development, some Planning Board members said they needed more time to weigh the changes. They cited the resident's concern about how large buildings would fit into the neighborhood and the continuing question about the place of affordable housing in any future.

Calling the proposed changes "flawed and incomplete," Planning Board member Jacqueline Tillman, also the chairperson of the Planning Board's Master Plan Subcommittee, called for further deliberations.

Heidi Fichtenbaum agreed. A resident of Carnahan Place, which borders the hospital site, she said the current proposals "lack vision" and are "money-driven" as the hospital tries to maximize density in order to make the site attractive to a prospective developer.

However, some members of the Planning Board contended that the site should remain dense to get significant levels of affordable housing into the mix.

Despite the fact that the current proposals to change the Master Plan have largely been in their current form since early fall, Planning Board members have not made large strides toward a consensus as to the future of the site. So while some members of the Planning Board maintain that the Master Plan's purpose is to discuss ideal solutions and guidelines for town planning, others held specific ideas on the design.

Board member Phil Feig echoed Township Mayor Phyllis Marchand's assertion that the role of the Master Plan was not to design the site, but rather to set fluid guidelines. Mr. Feig warned that any development on the hospital site would be stuck in a state of "suspended animation" if the Planning Board attempted to design it.

Wendy Benchley, a board member who sits on Borough Council, questioned issues of height and the percentage of retail, and revisited the idea of continuing a street like Birch Avenue through the site while Board member Bill Enslin took up the idea of placing a Continued Care Retirement Community there.

—Matthew Hersh

Communities of Light 2005 Will Light 100,000 Candles

The 2005 incarnation of Communities of Light will light more than 100,000 candles across central New Jersey on December 18. The project will once again benefit Womanspace, Inc., a non-profit organization providing crisis intervention and support services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Ocean County will be included this year, along with Women's Crisis Service in Hunterdon County, Resource Center for Women & Their Families in Somerset County, and Women Aware in Middlesex County.

Honorary chairs of Mercer County's portion of the event are the Honorable Marvin Reed, former mayor of Princeton Borough and Ingrid Reed, director of the NJ Project at the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University.

Residents and businesses will light luminary candles along driveways and sidewalks in and around the county as a symbol of hope for those who struggle with violence at home. A Sunday was chosen for the lighting because it is the day that most cases of domestic violence are reported, according to the 2004 New Jersey Uniform Crime Report.

The rain date for the lighting is Friday, December 30.

"The dark shadow of domestic violence is a common element that connects all of us and all of our communities, from Hopewell to Trenton, from East Windsor to Princeton to Ewing," according to Kristin Keller, chair of Mercer County Communities of Light. "The brightness of 50,000 luminary candles in Mercer County will cast light on that shadow."

Luminary candle kits are available through neighborhood volunteers and at many retail locations in Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Ocean, and Somerset counties. Each kit will cost $10 and include materials for six luminaries to light approximately 100 linear feet.

For more information, call (609) 394-0136 or visit www.womanspace.org.

Local Fare
from Princeton's kitchens

Catherine LoCascio
Whole Earth Customer

Moist Honey Cornbread

Serves 2

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** Catherine's Vegetarian Chili recipe appeared in our November 30 issue.*

Dry Ingredients:
1 cup finely ground non-GMO corn meal
1 tablespoon natural baking powder
1 cup flour
¼ cup organic cane sugar
½ teaspoon sea salt

Liquid Ingredients:
1 cup organic heavy cream
¼ cup organic safflower oil
2 organic eggs, slightly beaten
¼ cup Tupelo or Orange Blossom honey

1. Line an 8x8x2-inch baking pan with foil. Preheat oven to 400°F.
2. Combine dry ingredients in a large bowl.
3. Combine liquid ingredients in a separate bowl and stir well to mix. Add liquid to dry ingredients and stir just until moistened. Do not overmix!
4. Pour batter into prepared baking pan. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes until top is golden.
5. Remove from oven and set pan on rack to cool for 10 minutes. Cut into 6 squares and serve hot. This combread is delicious when served alone, with a pat of butter, or with honey.

More to come... Watch this space weekly for Princeton's favorite recipes... *Provided by Robin Broomer, Town Topics*

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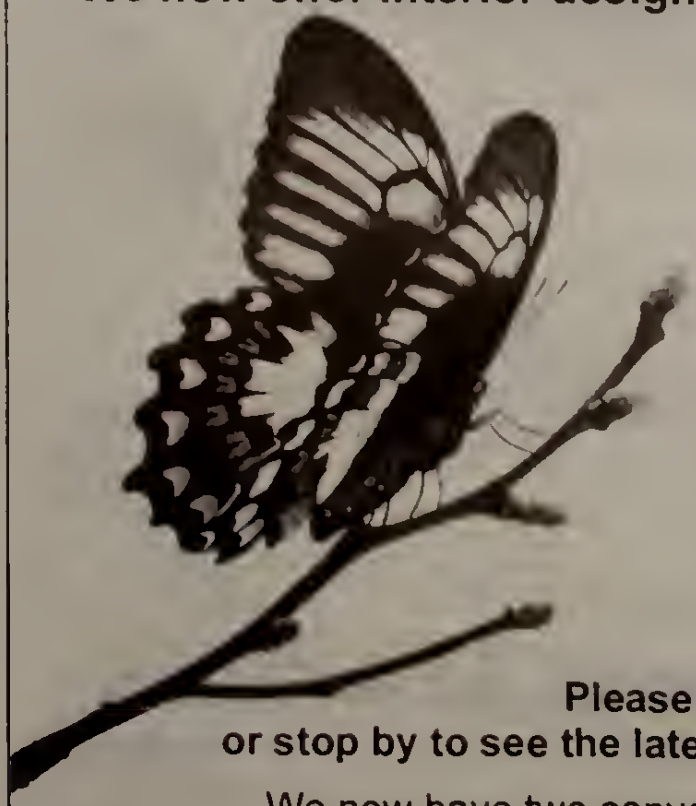

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CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 14

10 a.m.: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*; Off-Broadstreet Theatre, Hopewell. Also Thursday and Friday at 10 a.m., Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

6:30 and 8:30 p.m.: Service of Lessons and Carols with Jubilate Deo and Cantate Domino Choirs; Miller Chapel, Princeton Theological Seminary. Free.

7:30 p.m.: Site Plan Review Advisory Board; Township Municipal Complex.

7:30 p.m.: Township Zoning Board of Adjustment; Township Municipal Complex.

7:30 p.m.: Princeton Environmental Commission; Township Municipal Complex.

7:30 p.m.: *A Christmas Carol*; McCarter Theatre. Also Thursday and Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday at 1 and 5:30 p.m.

8 p.m.: *Inspecting Carol*; George Street Playhouse, New Brunswick. Also Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 and 7 p.m.

8 p.m.: Mercer County Community College Chorus, *Joy To The World*; Kelsey Theater, Mercer County Community College. Free.

Thursday, December 15

7:30 p.m.: Poetry reading with Pulitzer Prize Winner Paul Muldoon; Montgomery Center for the Arts, Skillman.

8 p.m.: Westminster Conservatory Community Chorus and Chamber Choir; Richardson Auditorium.

8 p.m.: Mercer County Community College Jazz Band; Kelsey Theater, Mercer County Community College. Free.

Friday, December 16

7:30 p.m.: Princeton Garage Orchestra; Princeton Public Library. Free.

8 p.m.: *Squabbles*; Off-Broadstreet Theatre, Hopewell. Also Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

8 p.m.: Princeton Pro Musica, *Carols for Chorus, Harp, and Percussion*; Richardson Auditorium.

8 p.m.: Rackett; Berlind Theatre.

8 p.m.: Voices Chorale's *Festival of Candles and Carols*; Pennington Presbyterian Church.

8 and 10:30 p.m.: Chris Coccia; Catch A Rising Star Comedy Club, Hyatt Regency. Also Saturday at 8 and 10:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 17

Noon to 2 p.m.: Christmas Concert with Nassau Brass; Princeton Shopping Center Courtyard. Free.

1 and 4:30 p.m.: American Repertory Ballet's *The Nutcracker*; State Theatre, New Brunswick. Also Sunday at 1 and 4:30 p.m.

2 and 4 p.m.: Belle Mead Ballet's *The Nutcracker*; Kelsey Theatre, Mercer County Community College. Also Sunday at 2 and 4 p.m.

3 p.m.: Screening and discussion of James Stewart films *Bell, Book and Candle* and *It's o Wonderful Life*; Princeton Public Library. Free.

4 p.m.: Princeton Symphony Orchestra Annual Holiday Concert, with Princeton High School Choir; Richardson Auditorium.

7 p.m.: New Jersey Opera Theater's *HolidayFore* Concert; Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton. Free.

7:30 p.m.: Pop/jazz vocalist Stacey Kent; Berlind Theatre. SRO.

8 p.m.: *Peace and Joy* Concert with tenor Ciaran Sheehan and soprano Aldeen O'Donnell; St. Paul's Church, 214 Nassau Street.

8 p.m.: The American Boychoir; Princeton University Chapel.

8 p.m.: Voices Chorale's *Festival of Condles and Corols*; Princeton United Methodist Church.

8 p.m.: *The Wiz*; Bristol Chapel, Westminster Choir College. Also Sunday at 3 p.m.

8:30 p.m.: Chris Harford; Small World Coffee, 14 Witherspoon Street.

Sunday, December 18

1 p.m.: USA Women's Hockey vs. Team Finland; Sovereign Bank Arena, Trenton.

1:30 and 3 p.m.: The Engelchor Consort, *Music of 15th Century Europe*; Princeton University Art Museum.

2 p.m.: New Jersey Opera Theater's *HolidayFare* Concert; Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, New Brunswick.

3 p.m.: Greater Trenton Symphony Orchestra; Patriots Theater at the War Memorial, Trenton.

4 p.m.: The American Boychoir; Richardson Auditorium.

8 p.m.: Chanukah Concert, *Kindle the Tapers*, with Westminster Youth Chorale; Bristol Chapel, Westminster Choir College.

Monday, December 19

7 p.m.: Township Committee; Township Municipal Complex.

7:30 p.m.: *The Complete Brandenburg Concerti* with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center; Richardson Auditorium.

8 p.m.: Jazz Singers Dianne Reeves and Freddy Cole; McCarter Theatre.

8 p.m.: Fuma Sacra; Bristol Chapel, Westminster Choir College.

Tuesday, December 20

6 to 9 p.m.: Tuesday Nite Jazz with John Henry Goldman; Sunny Garden Restaurant, Farber Road.

7:30 p.m.: Sidewalk and Bike Advisory Committee; Township Municipal Complex.

7:30 p.m.: *A Christmas Carol*; McCarter Theatre. Also Wednesday through Friday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 3 p.m., Saturday at noon and 4 p.m.

8 p.m.: Princeton Regional Schools Board of Education; John Witherspoon Middle School.

8 p.m.: *Inspecting Carol*; George Street Playhouse, New Brunswick. Also Wednesday through Friday at 8 p.m., Thursday at 2 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m.

Wednesday, December 21

Noon: Drumthwacket Tour. Every Wednesday. Reservation required; call (609) 683-0591.

SENIOR CITIZENS CALENDAR

Wednesday, Dec. 14 – Wednesday, Dec. 21

Information Provided by Senior Resource Center, 924-7108
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Suzanne Patterson Bldg (SPB); Redding Circle (RC); Borough Hall (BH);
Henry F. Pannell Learning Center (HPLC).
Information about resources for the older adult. Call 924-7108.

Wednesday, December 14:
9:15 a.m. Aerobics; SPB.
1:00 p.m. Holiday Party; SPB.
Thursday, December 15:
9:30 a.m. Yoga; SPB.
10:30 a.m. Let's Talk in English Too; RC.
1:00 p.m. Art with Hannah; SPB.
3:00 p.m. Pilates; SPB.
Friday, December 16:
9:15 a.m. Aerobics; SPB.
10:45 a.m. Ping-Pong; SPB.
11:00 a.m. Chair Exercise; SC.
12:00 p.m. Brown Bag: "Hoarding;" SPB.
Monday, December 19:
9:15 a.m. Aerobics; SPB.
11:00 a.m. Chair Exercise; SC.
1:00 p.m. Coping with Bereavement; SPB.
1:30 p.m. Wonder of Wordplay; SPB.
Tuesday, December 20:
1:00 p.m. Social Bridge; SPB.
1:00 p.m. Scrabble; SPB.
1:00 p.m. Literature w/George Ingenbrandt; SC.
1:30 p.m. Computer Lab; SPB.
Wednesday, December 21:
9:15 a.m. Aerobics; SPB.
10:30 a.m. Let's Talk; RC.
1:00 p.m. Blood Pressure; SC.
1:30 p.m. Let's Talk in English; SC.
3:00 p.m. Let's Talk Too; SC.
4:30 p.m. Children of Aging Parents; SPB.

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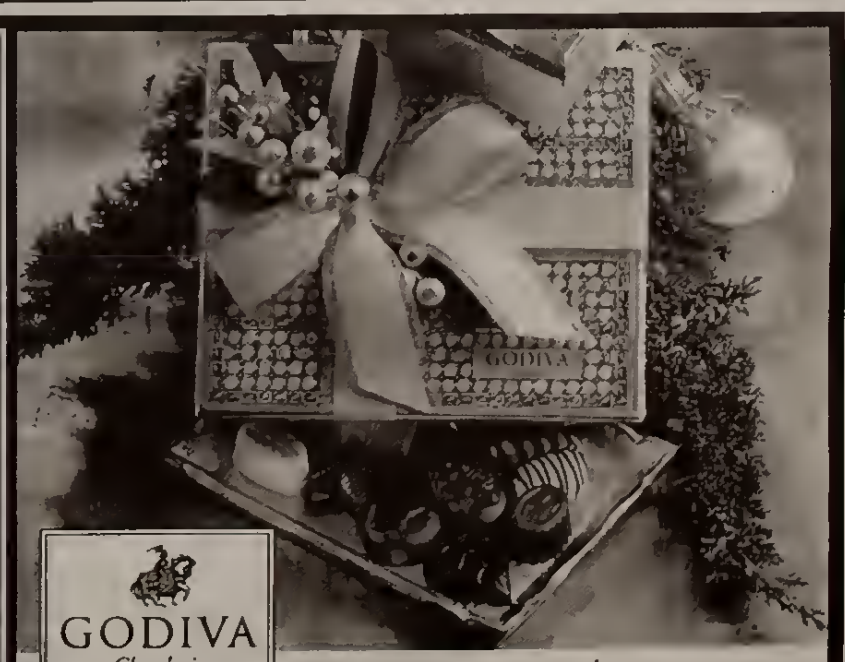

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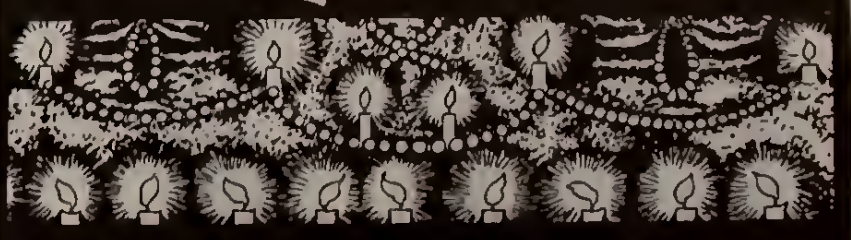

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MAILBOX

Town-Gown Commission Idea Supported As Borough Financing Debate Continues

Editor's Note: The following is a copy of a letter sent to Borough Councilman Roger Martindell.
Dear Mr. Martindell:

As a Princeton Borough homeowner since 1965, I am gratified that an elected public official has at long last spoken up clearly and forcefully on Princeton University's moral and social, if not legal, obligation to carry their fair share of our skyrocketing tax burden. I completely support your idea of a permanent town-gown commission to address this long-festering issue in a thorough and transparent manner.

Princeton University claims that it pays $3.05 million in property taxes. This is a surprise to many homeowners. What portion of this is paid directly by the University and not by its employees? The University reminds us that its payment of $1.5 million to the Borough represents 17 percent of Borough revenue. However, in terms of the Borough's total annual budget, it is less than 7 percent, and in terms of real estate, it is less than 0.1 percent of the value of University's holdings.

Apart from the problem of the University's annual gratuity, I believe that there is a more significant, underlying issue that needs to be examined. I think it is preposterous that private educational corporations with $10 billion endowments, earning double-digit profits, should qualify as "non-profit" for tax purposes. Why should these corporations enjoy the same tax status as public schools and state universities? Why hasn't the IRS challenged this entitlement? I would guess that the annual fees paid by Princeton University to its money manager(s) alone far exceed the Borough's total annual budget. I realize that a fundamental revision of the tax code would be required to correct these anomalies, and that I probably would not live to see the desired change, but the question needs to be asked and debated. Borough homeowners are tired of subsidizing the University.

CLARENCE D. CHANG
Murray Place

Editor's Note: The following is a copy of a letter originally submitted to Princeton Borough Mayor Mildred Trotman and Borough Council.
Dear Mayor and Council:

As a resident of the Borough, as an alumnus of Princeton University, and as someone who is intensely involved with all the resources the University has to offer to the community, I must voice my dismay at the contentious environment that has been established by certain Borough Council members regarding the University.

I would love very much to be part of a committee that discusses these town and gown matters, because it strikes me that it is most unnecessary to poison the phenomenal quality of life we have in Princeton, a quality that is mostly due to the University. I am sure the University will be responsive, as it has in the past, to making sure it is not imposing an undue financial burden upon the town. I am also sure, however, that unfairly holding up a reasonable zoning request from the University at the E-Quadrangle, a request that has the support of the neighborhood, will do nothing to further the Borough's request for more support from the University.

ROBERT VARRIN
Elm Road

To the Editor:

It was 50 years ago when the St. John family became accustomed to enjoying regular Sunday afternoon carillon concerts and met professor Bigelow, the carillonneur. He loved the instrument and its music, and would explain how as the centuries rolled by the tone of the bells only improved. So I came to believe that this mingling of town and gown was another thing that made this town such a great place to live.

Today, however, town and gown seem like immature children squabbling and attacking each other.

I despair of my Borough thinking that they are superior to the University, which is bigger, richer, more famous, more accomplished, and more productive than the Borough.

Then there is the University thinking that it can ignore its Borough foundation without which it couldn't begin to function.

Doesn't anybody know that you catch more flies with honey than with vinegar, and that partnerships exist because the members together accomplish more than they could by themselves?

If only both parties were constantly trying to offer what the other needs, I know that all would receive benefits that I can't even imagine.

CHARLES E. ST. JOHN
Prospect Avenue

Township's Installation of Sidewalks Shows Disregard for Citizens' Rights

To the Editor:

As a resident of Princeton Township for close to 45 years, I am deeply concerned with the manner and methods that the Township goes about installing sidewalks and curb stones. If I can believe what I have read in the past year about Snowden Lane and now Overbrook Drive, it appears that there is some hidden agenda in our Princeton Community Master Plan to arbitrarily install sidewalks and Belgian block curbing to every country lane in the Township without even the consent of the property owners.

This outright disregard for citizens' rights seems impossible to believe in a democracy and appears close to being a form of eminent domain. In many ways the paving of land seems to be contrary to flood water control and open space. Simply put, it is just another form of needless urbanization. Most of all this autocratic form of dictatorial power is not the proper way to transact business in a free society. Possibly if there were a better balance of community representation on the Township Committee this type of single-minded action would not happen.

JOHN. H. DENNY
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Property Rights and Flooding at Issue In Next Township Committee Meeting

Editor's Note: The following is an exchange of correspondence originally sent to Township Moyor Phyllis Morchand and Township Committee. A flood prevention ordinance is scheduled to be discussed before Township Committee this Mondoy, December 19.

Dear Mayor Marchand and Members of the Township Committee:

I plan to attend the December 19 Township Committee meeting to ask the question in this letter in person. However, in the event that I am unable to attend the meeting I want to be certain that the Committee considers the issue I am raising prior to its voting on the Impervious Coverage ordinance.

At the last Planning Board meeting when the Impervious Coverage ordinance came up for discussion I asked Bob Kiser what the impact of the ordinance will be on Township residents. Specifically, how many Princeton Township properties would be deemed built out and how many would be deemed close to built out?

Mr. Kiser responded by saying that based on a sample of 125 properties, approximately 5 percent of Township properties would be deemed built out and another five percent would be close to built out. That means for the five percent of properties that are deemed built out a homeowner could not add a walk, patio, addition, or enlarge a driveway. Another five percent would be limited with regard to the size of any such additional impervious coverage on their lot or mitigation would have to be provided. I guess that means if a homeowner of one these lots wanted to add a few pieces of bluestone to create a simple patio, they might have to also add a drywell.

My concern is that there is quite a taking of individual property rights created by this ordinance and I did not see any discussion in the press regarding this perhaps unintended result of passing the ordinance.

You see what is happening in the Borough with regard to the McMansion ordinance under consideration. I believe that a similar questioning would occur in the Township if homeowners were made aware of the effect of passing this ordinance on homeowner rights. I think the Township Committee owes it to Princeton homeowners to make the effect of this ordinance known prior to December 19, so that there can be a full and thorough discussion of the issue.

PHILIP FEIG
Member
Regional Planning Board of Princeton

Dear Mayor Marchand and Members of the Township Committee:

I have received a copy of a letter written by Philip Feig addressed to Mayor Marchand and Township Committee members. According to Mr. Feig's letter, his "concern is that there is quite a taking of individual property rights created by this ordinance," but the increase of impervious surface (rainwater runoff) which exacerbates existing flooding conditions is exactly that, "the taking of individual property rights." The increase of impervious surface is "taking" our right to simply enjoy and protect the properties so many of us purchased many years ago to raise our families.

Is the right to "add a few pieces of bluestone to create a simple patio" more important than the right to protect homes, backyards, mature trees, and the streambanks in entire neighborhoods? For more than three years, there have been public discussions regarding the flood issue in Princeton. We have had floods, public hearings, coverage from newspapers, more public discussions, more floods, more coverage, and more floods. We had several public hearings for the Flood Mitigation Plan, and public hearings for the Flood Prevention Ordinance, but Mr. Feig writes that he did not see any discussions in the press. I have written to him, sent him pictures of flooded backyards, and have invited him and any other concerned resident to come and visit our neighborhood. If someone else expresses concern that the Township is trying to interfere with a property owner's rights by introducing this ordinance, we will be happy to invite them to visit our neighborhood too. We have nothing to hide. The devastation to our properties as a result of flooding is here for everyone to see. People need to know how important this ordinance is. Thank you for all the work you and Township Committee, members of the Flood Control Commission, the Planning Board, the Environmental Commission, and, especially, Bob Kiser have done. I look forward to the public hearing on December 19.

OLIVIA APPLEGATE
Random Road

High School Students Voice Concern Over Selective Parking Enforcement

To the Editor:

We would first like to take this opportunity to thank members of the Princeton Borough Council, Princeton Township Committee, Princeton Regional Board of Education, Board President Anne Burns, PRS Superintendent Judy Wilson, PHS Principal Gary Snyder, PHS Student Activities Coordinator Angela Siso, the Borough and Township police departments, and the community at large for their efforts to reform the student parking system at Princeton High School. The additional permits provided under the new ordinances have significantly improved the parking deficit and many of the high school community's concerns have been alleviated.

There are, however, a number of serious issues that require immediate attention. Over the last four months, numerous students have approached us to express their concerns about student parking along Walnut Lane and Franklin Avenue, adjacent to the campus of Westminster Choir College. On a daily basis, vehicles belonging to Westminster students are parked in areas clearly designated for the use of PHS students only. As the halfway point of the 2005-06 school year approaches, we have yet to see any of these illegally parked vehicles receive tickets. Parking enforcement officers are extraordinarily quick to issue tickets to high school students who are parked illegally, but it is clear that the need to ticket other vehicles that are illegally parked in "Student Only" zones is not as urgent. It is worth noting that many PHS students are forced to park outside of the "Student Only" zones because these areas on Walnut and Franklin are occupied by vehicles that do not display the proper decals required to park there, leaving students no other option but to park illegally at the risk of being ticketed.

Enforcement of the new parking ordinances is, pardon the pun, a two-way street. If students are issued $50 tickets for parking in other "Permit Only" zones, such as those reserved for neighborhood residents and school visitors, then those without student permits should be ticketed in the same strict and expedient manner for parking in "Student Only" zones.

Student parking is already terribly limited. Construction activities at the high school and the inconveniences inflicted on all of us by the winter weather only exacerbate the situation. We hope the police departments will begin to enforce the ordinances fairly so as to ensure that Princeton High School seniors are afforded the same rights as the neighborhood's residents and school visitors: to have parking spaces available in the areas designated for our explicit use, and for the police department to issue tickets to any vehicles that do not belong in these areas.

ANDREW BLACK
JANE DOBKIN
Student Representatives
Princeton Regional Board of Education
Princeton High School

The Lewis School of Princeton

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Our Warmest Regards to Our Parent Committee Members & Families Who Volunteered So Much Time and Energy to The Tree of Light.
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Engagements

Kenneth Swiss and Normajean Pratico

(Photo by Pryde Brown)

Pratico-Swiss. Normajean Pratico, daughter of Chris and Denise Pratico of Princeton, to Kenneth John Swiss, son of Alfred and Elizabeth Swiss of Brisbane, Australia.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Northern Burlington County Regional High School and Villanova University's College of Commerce and Finance. She is a vice president with Morgan Stanley Investment Management in New York City.

The groom-to-be is a graduate of Brisbane Boys' College and Bond University. He has graduate degrees in law from both Queensland University of Technology and the University of Queensland. He is of counsel as Associate Director-Markets for the Dubai Financial Services Authority, regulator of the Dubai International Financial Centre in the United Arab Emirates.

A May 13 wedding is planned at St. Paul's Catholic Church, Princeton.

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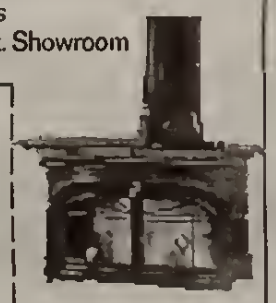

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Fire Wire

The all-volunteer Princeton Fire Department responded to more than 15 calls since December 5. Fire and carbon monoxide alarms were set off on Dodds Lane, Cleveland Lane, Faculty Road, Stuart Road, Prospect Avenue, Herrontown Road, Walnut Lane, Sassafras Row, Nassau Street, Harrison Street, Brookstone Drive, Clay Street, Ober Road and Edgerstoune Road.

In the afternoon of the 5th a homeowner on Heather Lane reported the smell of electrical burning inside of the home. Investigating crews determined the cause of the smoke to be from a malfunctioning furnace.

A fire alarm activation at a Princeton shopping center store was upgraded on the 9th when first arriving officers discovered a smoke condition. Upon further investigation the source of the smoke was found to be a burned-out electrical motor.

FIRE SAFETY TIPS:

Water That Tree!

If your household, like those of more than 33 million other American homes, includes a natural tree in its festivities, take to heart the sales person's suggestion – "Keep the tree watered." That's good advice and not just to create a fragrant indoor winter wonderland atmosphere. Christmas trees account for 400 fires annually, resulting in 10 deaths, 80 injuries and more than $15 million in property damage. Typically shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem. Dry and neglected trees can be.

According to a National Institute of Standards and Technology study, within three seconds of ignition, a dry Scotch pine is completely ablaze. At five seconds, the fire extends up the tree and black smoke with searing gases streaks across the ceiling. Fresh air near the floor feeds the fire. The sofa, coffee table and the carpet ignite prior to any flame contact. Within 40 seconds "flashover" occurs – that's when an entire room erupts into flames, oxygen is depleted and dense, deadly toxic smoke engulfs the scene.

Wet trees tell a different story. For comparative purposes, the NIST fire safety engineers selected a green Scotch pine, had it cut in their presence, had an additional two inches cut from the trunk's bottom, and placed the tree in a stand with at least a 7.6 liter water capacity. The researchers maintained the Scotch pine's water on a daily basis. A single match could not ignite the tree. A second attempt in which an electric current ignited an entire matchbook failed to fire the tree. Finally they applied an open flame to the tree using a propane torch. The branches ignited briefly, but self-extinguished when the researchers removed the torch from the branches.

As NIST fire safety engineers say: REMEMBER, A WET TREE IS A SAFE TREE!

The Princeton Fire Department is one of the oldest volunteer fire departments in the country. It was founded in 1788 and is made up of three fire companies Princeton Hook & Ladder, Mercer Engine Company #3, and Princeton Engine Company #1. The mission of the fire department is to protect life and property for the citizens of Princeton Borough and Township, and Princeton University from the threat of fire or emergency disasters. The department has 50 active members that respond to emergency calls each year. Last year the fire department responded to 1100 fire emergency calls within the community. The department is always looking for more members to join the department, if you are interested please call (609) 497-7645 or (609) 731-1314.

Rescue Report

The Princeton First Aid & Rescue Squad responded to 56 calls last week. Twenty-nine were located in Princeton Township, 24 in Princeton Borough, and 3 in Lawrence Township. Included in these numbers are 14 calls at Princeton University.

On Saturday, December 3, the Squad responded to an assisted care facility for an 87-year-old female with an altered mental status. The patient, who fell off a chair and suffered a compression fracture to her spine one week ago, had deteriorated since then and was now unable to verbalize responses to questions. The patient also experienced difficulty swallowing and had not eaten since the previous day. The crew applied oxygen and transported her to the hospital for further evaluation.

The Saturday night crew was kept awake all night with 8 calls between 10:30 p.m. and 6:15 a.m. Despite snowy conditions that made the roads treacherous for driving, none of the calls were weather related. Of these calls, 6 were alcohol-related, four of them at Princeton University.

On Sunday December 4, the Squad was dispatched to the Princeton Shopping Center for an intoxicated male in his late twenties who reportedly fell and struck his head. The crew found the patient confused and unable to remember his age or date of birth. After he was splinted on a spinal immobilization board, he was transported to the hospital.

Thursday afternoon, December 8, was busy with four calls in 25 minutes. The first was at 12:20 p.m. for an 18-year-old male who was assaulted near the WaWa. The victim was reportedly punched in the face and hit in the head with a bat. The crew arrived to find the patient disoriented and bleeding from the nose and mouth. After his head, neck and spine were splinted, he was transported to the trauma center at Capital Health System's Fuld Campus.

Five minutes after this call was dispatched, another assignment sent a second crew to Princeton University for a 31 year-old male kitchen worker who suffered a one-inch laceration and avulsion when he sliced his finger with a knife. Squad members controlled the bleeding and transported the patient to the hospital.

At 12:28 p.m., a third call was dispatched for a woman who fell on the Witherspoon Street sidewalk and injured her arm. While the Squad was assessing this patient, a fourth call came in concerning a mildly combative, intoxicated man in his fifties with an altered mental status.

The Princeton First Aid & Rescue Squad is a volunteer-run organization dedicated to providing the community with emergency medical and technical rescue services. Anyone interested in making donations of time or money are encouraged to visit the Squad's website, www.pfars.org, or call 609-924-3338 for more information.

DOING IT RIGHT: About 30 people spent part of their Saturday doing EMT training under the supervision of the Princeton First Aid & Rescue Squad. Shown here tending to a potential spinal injury being simulated by Dylan McDonnell are (from left) Chris Chandonnet with high school students Ashley Roome, Eric Dean, and Rachel Chunko. (Photo by F. J. Greenblat)

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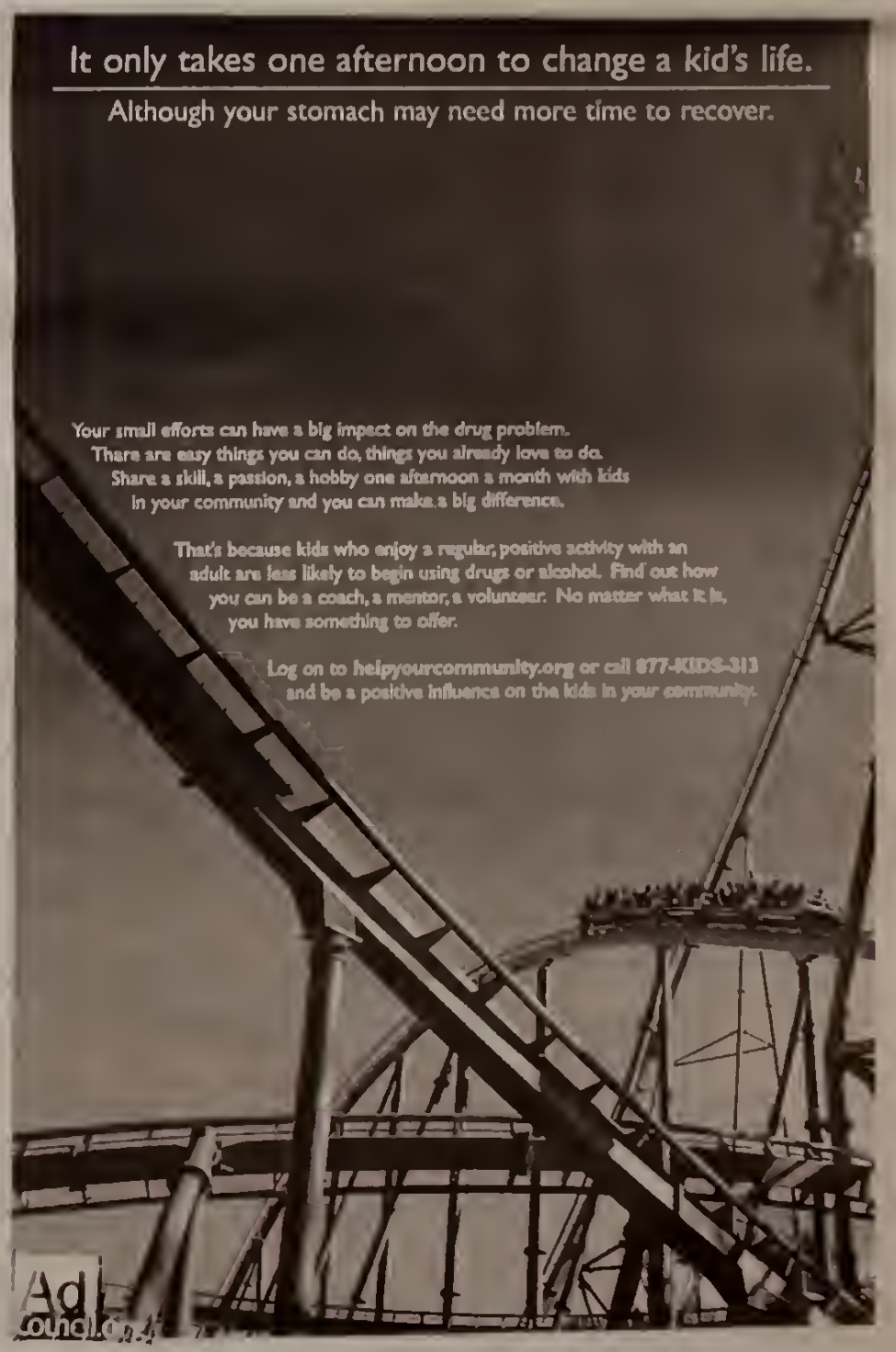


BOOK REVIEW

Nabokov's Lolita Celebrates Her 50th Birthday

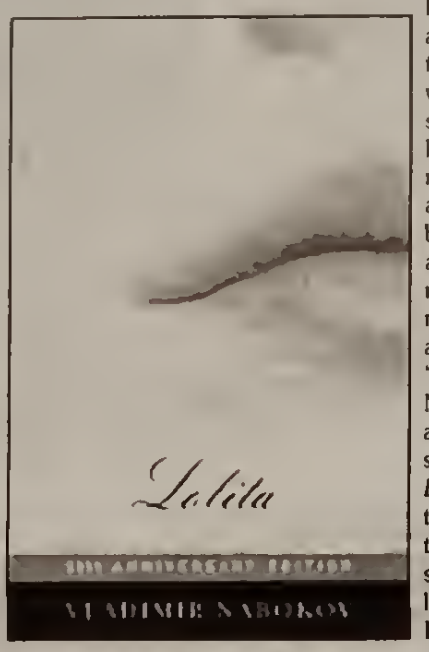
On September 15, 2005, the 50th anniversary of the publication of Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita*, Vintage printed 50,000 copies of the book and sold all 50,000 before the month was over. More numbers: a signed copy of the first edition, published by Olympia Press in Paris in two paperback volumes because no American publisher would touch it, is going for $45,000. Copies of the unsigned first edition hover in the $10,000 range. The first American edition came out in 1958 and goes for considerably less, though one hopeful dealer is asking $6,000 for a "pristine" copy. I read it for the first time in a Fawcett paperback that cost fifty cents.

The Olympia edition was in the notorious Traveler's Companion Series, which was primarily composed of "obscene novelettes" written by hacks, as Nabokov once put it. Alfred Appel, Jr., the editor of *The Annotated Lolita* and a student of Nabokov's at Cornell, discovered the Olympia *Lolita* when he was in the army and stationed near Paris. When he brought it back to the barracks, it was immediately grabbed up by a fellow solider familiar with the Traveler's Companion Series ("Hey, lemme read your dirty book, man!"). After reading aloud the now-famous opening lines ("Lolita, light of my life, fire of my loins. My sin, my soul. Lo-lee-ta: the tip of the tongue taking a trip of three steps down the palate to tap, at three, on the teeth. Lo. Lee. Ta."), the soldier threw the book against the wall in disgust and yelled, "Damn! It's Litachure!!"

By the time *Lolita* came out in this country three years later, it had been recognized as "litachure" even by those who might have tried to ban it had it been any less flagrantly the work of genius that it was; thus it was spared obscenity trials in the U.S. such as those convened to deal with James Joyce's *Ulysses* and Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer*. "Literature" was ultimately the magic word in those instances, too, as it was with other challenged works like D.H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover* and William Burroughs's *The Naked Lunch*.

For anyone who wants to experience the difference between delirious literature and mere fiction, *Lolita* is the perfect medium. In some works the literary element may be more subtle; in Nabokov's masterpiece it's in your face.

I can still locate the paragraph where I first realized that I was entering a world that was truly "rich and strange." It comes a few pages into the book when Humbert Humbert, the book's narrator/perpetrator, evil genius, poet, and murderer, imagines himself a "quiet scholar" on a park bench around whom "nymphets played freely, as if he were a familiar statue or part of an old tree's shadow and sheen." A girl in roller skates comes up to the bench and puts her foot on it to tighten the strap of her skate. That's all. Here's how Nabokov describes it:



"Once a perfect little beauty in a tartan frock, with a clatter put her heavily armed foot near me upon the bench to dip her slim bare arms into me and tighten the strap of her roller skate, and I dissolved in the sun, with my book for a fig leaf, as her auburn ringlets fell all over her skinned knee, and the shadow of leaves I shared pulsated and melted on her radiant limb next to my chameleonic cheek."

The essence of Nabokov's wizardry is there, not only in the music of the language as the narrator dissolves into a disembodied mass of imagination but in the way the crazed, relentless excessiveness of the writing informs your sense of Humbert's character. You get the fun and the art and the character all in one, and the narrative goes on and on that way, transcending itself and continually reaching into the reader to do with words what the girl on roller skates does to Humbert.

The miracle of *Lolita* lives not only in its gleeful invasion of the English language, and of the terrain of mid-century American culture Nabokov explores so brilliantly, but in the creation of Humbert and Lolita. Like Joyce's achievement with Leopold and Molly Bloom in *Ulysses*, Nabokov gives his book a humanity that holds its own amid all the linguistic brilliance, allusiveness, and devastating satire.

As with other great, eccentric works, *Lolita* has been and is still being misread and misunderstood, abused and exploited. In her recent piece in The Nation about the 50th Anniversary Edition, Lila Azam Zanganeh declares that "American readers in particular have long felt guilty about loving *Lolita*, and they have searched in vain for its moral lessons." I personally don't know of any American readers who feel guilty about loving either the book or the character and it's hard to imagine readers searching for a moral lesson from an author as perverse and "chameleonic" as Nabokov. It suggests an almost wilful misunderstanding of the art of *Lolita* to talk in those terms. It's like attaching the notion of "moral lessons" to a solo by Charlie Parker or the "Dies Irae" of Berlioz's *Requiem* or a poem by Rimbaud. Chances are the readers Ms. Zanganeh has in mind never got very far in the book when it first appeared and dominated the New York Times best-seller list for the better part of a year. It's safe to say that a small portion of the thousands who bought it never finished it or appreciated it.

The Times's own Orville Prescott, the dread dean of American book reviewers at the time, disdained *Lolita* as "bad news" because it was "dull, dull, dull, in a pretentious, florid and archly fatuous fashion" and because it was "repulsive." Humbert would have delighted in using any of those adjectives about himself, perhaps even "dull, dull, dull."

Then you have Azar Nafisi, the author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, who says that the book she's using to spice up and sell her title with is "one of the world's great works of art because it reaches the emotions many people hold deep inside." She goes on to claim that "what frightens or disturbs us in *Lolita* has something to do with us." While it's a tribute to Nabokov that someone who has read and reread the book can speak of it in those terms, chances are that Humbert's creator would go "Hmm," raising his eyebrows and rolling his eyes at the overwrought wording. He might also not appreciate having his *Lolita* borrowed to lend some heft to the title of someone else's book. And he would definitely disapprove of Pia Pera piggybacking on his creation with her novel, *Lo's Diary*. For that matter, what would he make of the woefully unimaginative cover of the 50th Anniversary *Lolita*? Even the bland dust jacket of the first U.S. edition seems preferable to the new edition's close-up of a pair of lips that look too mature to belong to a nymphet; the image seems a feeble allusion to the publicity shot for Stanley Kubrick's 1962 film where Lo is shown peering at us over heart-shaped sunglasses while sucking a lollipop.

The Movie

Seven years after *Lolita*'s Olympia Press incamation, and four years after she invaded America, Stanley Kubrick directed *Lolita* the movie, with Nabokov writing the screenplay and no doubt putting his stamp on the production in other ways. However far the finished film may have strayed from his screenplay, it is one of the rare adaptations of a serious work of fiction that captures the spirit of its source at no loss of cinematic integrity. Peter Sellers gives one of his most inspired performances as Clare Quilty, the Nabokov magic illuminating every devious, sinister, hilarious nuance of his dialogue, particularly in his scenes with James Mason's Humbert. And in case anyone doubted the human depth of Nabokov's protagonist, Mason draws on it to give what is arguably the greatest performance of his career. His agony when Lolita runs away makes something else clear: that the book, like the movie, is that rarity of rarities, a believable love story.

—Stuart Mitchner

ProLiteracy Awards Grant To Literacy Volunteers

Literacy Volunteers in Mercer County has received a $2,616 grant from ProLiteracy Worldwide through its National Book Scholarship Fund (NBSF). Educational materials from the NBSF are designed to meet the special learning needs of adult literacy students, tutors, teachers, and trainers.

Literacy Volunteers in Mercer County provides free volunteer tutoring to adult students in basic literacy and English as a second language (ESL). In addition to one-on-one and small group tutoring, the program offers weekly group evening classes for both ESL and basic literacy students, and weekly group conversation classes on varying levels.

Anyone wishing to volunteer or to improve their own literacy skills, should call Literacy Volunteers in Mercer County at (609) 587-6027.

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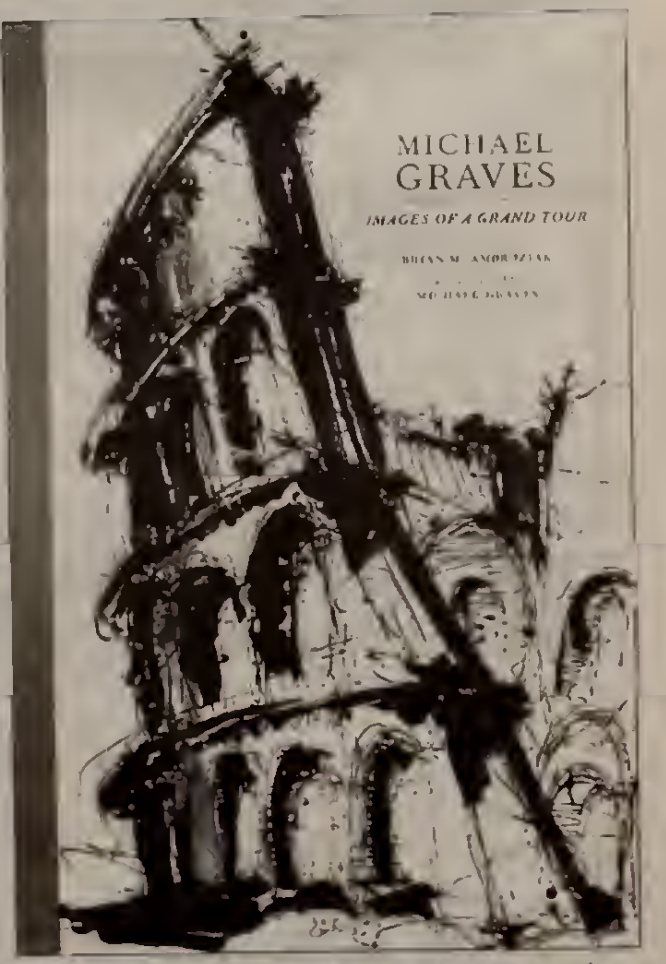
Michael Graves Publishes 'Images of a Grand Tour'

The drawings and photographs created by Princeton architect Michael Graves during a two-year tour of Europe in the 1960s have been published for the first time in *Michael Graves: Images of a Grand Tour* (Princeton Architectural Press $29.95) by Brian Ambroziak, a former student and designer with Michael Graves & Associates.

The book includes a foreword by Mr. Graves and essays by Mr. Ambroziak that put the tour in the context of the artist's life and work. The images record Graves's journey when, as a recipient of the Rome Prize in 1960, he spent two years in Rome and traveled throughout Italy, Greece, Turkey, Spain, England, Germany, and France, studying and recording great works of architecture. His travels exposed him to ideas that went beyond his modernist roots, from the Roman Forum and the Acropolis in Athens to Stonehenge in England.

Speaking of Rome, Mr Graves said, "In that rich and marvelous city, I came to understand architecture as a continuum from antiquity to the present day." The experience influenced his philosophy of teaching and practicing architecture in a career that has included nearly four decades of teaching at Princeton University; a multifaceted design practice that has produced over 300 architectural projects, and more than 1,800 product designs, from the iconic Whistling Bird tea kettle for Alessi to the democratization of design with objects in many categories for Target.



EARLY WORK BY MICHAEL GRAVES: Drawings and photographs done by Princeton architect Michael Graves during a two-year tour of Europe in the 1960s can be seen in *Michael Graves: Images of a Grand Tour* (Princeton Architectural Press $29.95), which includes a foreword by Mr. Graves and essays by Brian Ambroziak.

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Library Ceremony Features Author of Lindbergh Book

The Princeton Public Library will receive the New Jersey Council for the Humanities 2005 Book Award Collection at a special presentation that will feature award-winning author Lloyd C. Gardner on Friday, December 16 at 10:30 a.m. in the library's first floor Community Room.

Mr. Gardner will read from and sign copies of his book *The Case Thot Never Dies: The Lindbergh Kidnopping*, a state Humanities Council Honor Book published by Rutgers Universty Press.

Each year, the council awards copies of the books nominated for its top prize to libraries in the state. Princeton Public is one of five libraries to receive the 23 nominated for the 17th edition of the award.

The council selects works of nonfiction in the humanities that encourage "critical reflection and make scholarly knowledge accessible to a general audience." The authors of each book must have a connection to New Jersey by birth, residence or subject matter.

This year's top prize went to David Hackett Fischer for *Woshington's Crossing*, an examination of the turning point of the American Revolution that earned the author the Pulitzer Prize for History. Mr. Fischer appeared at the library in February in a program co-sponsored by the Princeton Battlefield Area Preservation Society.

In addition to Mr. Gardner's critically acclaimed book on the Lindbergh kidnapping, the council's Honor Books were *Alexander Homilton* by Ron Chernow, *Downtown Americo: A History of the Ploce ond the People Who Mode It* by Alison Isenberg, Dominic D.P. Johnson's *Overconfidence ond Wor: The Hovoc ond Glory of Positive Illusions* and *Hesitont Heroes: Privote Inhibition, Culturol Crisis* by Theodore Ziolkowski.

Charles and Mary Beard Professor of History at Rutgers University, where he has taught since 1963, Mr. Gardner is a specialist in 20th Century foreign policy who has received several national fellowships, including Fulbright Professorships in England and Finland and a Guggenheim Fellowship. He is author or editor of 15 books on American foreign policy, including *Poy Any Price: Lyndon Johnson ond the Wors for Vietnom*.

The presentation festivities will begin with a 10:30 a.m. reception and book display. At 11 a.m., Jane Brailove Rutkoff, the council's executive director, will present the collection to Nancy Russell, president of the Princeton Public Library Trustees, and Leslie Burger, library director and president-elect of the American Library Association.

Gardner's remarks and reading will begin at 11:30 a.m. The book signing will follow. Copies of *The Case Thot Never Dies* will be available for purchase at the library, which is in the Sands Library Building, 65 Witherspoon St., Princeton. For more information about the award presentation, call Readers Services Coordinator Susan Roth at (609) 924-9529, ext. 257.

Volume by Former Students Honors Seminary Professor

James H. Charlesworth, the George L. Collord Professor of New Testament Language and Literature at Princeton Seminary, will be honored in a forthcoming book of essays, *Qumron Studies: New Approoches, New Questions*, which will be published next year by William B. Eerdmans. The contributors are all Mr. Charlesworth's former students in the Seminary's Master of Divinity or Doctor of Philosophy programs, and all worked on the Princeton Theological Seminary Dead Sea Scrolls Project. While these students have gone on to academic positions around the country and the world, the Dead Sea Scrolls Project has continued to employ academically promising students from all the Seminary's programs.

The author or editor of many books, Mr. Charlesworth is known for his work with the Dead Sea Scrolls, Josephus, Jesus research, the Gospel of John, and the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old and New Testaments. As the founder and director of the Princeton Theological Seminary Dead Sea Scrolls Project, he has worked on the computer-enhanced photographing and translating of the Qumran scrolls in order to make available for the first time both an accurate text and an English translation of these documents, especially those which are not contained in the Biblia Hebraica. Six volumes of a projected twelve in the series have been published to date, with a seventh volume of The Temple Scroll, the longest scroll found in the Judean desert, pending with Mohr (Siebeck) of Tübingen, Germany.

Editors, as well as contributors to *Qumron Studies*, are Michael Thomas Davis, current employee of the Dead Sea Scrolls Project and adjunct professor at New York Theological Seminary and Rider University and Brent A. Strawn, assistant professor of Old Testament/Hebrew Bible at the Candler School of Theology and in the Graduate Division of Religion at Emory University.

Among the contributors are Shane A. Berg, doctoral candidate in religious studies (New Testament) at Yale University and Instructor in New Testament at Princeton Seminary; Carset Claussen, Wissenschaftlicher Assistant in New Testament Theology at the Protestant Theological Faculty, University of Tübingen and the University of Munich; Michael A. Daise, assistant professor of religious studies at the College of William and Mary; C.D. Elledge, assistant professor of religion at Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, Minnesota;

Other contributors to *Qumron Studies* ore Loren L. Johns, academic dean and associate professor of New Testament at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana; John B. Faulkenberry Miller, assistant professor of religion at McMurry University in Abilene, Texas; Lidija Novakovic, associate professor of biblical and theological studies at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota; Henry W. Morisada Rietz, associate professor of religious studies at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa; and Loren T. Stuckenbruck, the B.F. Westcott Professor in Biblical Studies at the University of Durham.

For more information, contact Michael Davis at (609) 497-7835 or at michael.davis @ptsem.edu.

Local Poets Will Read At Public Library Tonight

Peter Wood and Linda Arntzenius will be the featured poets at the December program of the U.S. 1 Poets Invite at Princeton Public Library on Wednesday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the first floor Community Room.

Each poet will read for 20 minutes, followed by an open mic session for audience members who want to share their poetry.

A Lawrenceville resident who taught poetry and creative writing at The College of New Jersey (formerly Trenton State College) for nearly 40 years, Mr. Wood has been published in *Antioch Review* and *Prairie Schooner*. His work has also been published in many regional journals and anthologies.

Ms. Arntzenius, a Scot who moved to Princeton from Los Angeles in 1998, has been the publications officer at the Institute of Advanced Study since 2003. Her poetry has appeared in Slant, Exit 13, The Kelsey Review, US1 Worksheets, Journal of New Jersey Poets and Paterson Literary Review.

Co-sponsored by the library, the U.S. 1 Poets' Cooperative and the Arts Council of Princeton and coordinated by poet and editor Ellen Foos, the series continues January 25, when poets Catherine Doty and Carolyn Foote Edelmann read at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

All Princeton Public Library programs are free and open to the public. When programs require registration, preference is given to library cardholders. The library is at 65 Witherspoon Street in Princeton. For more information on library programs and services, visit www.princetonlibrary.org.

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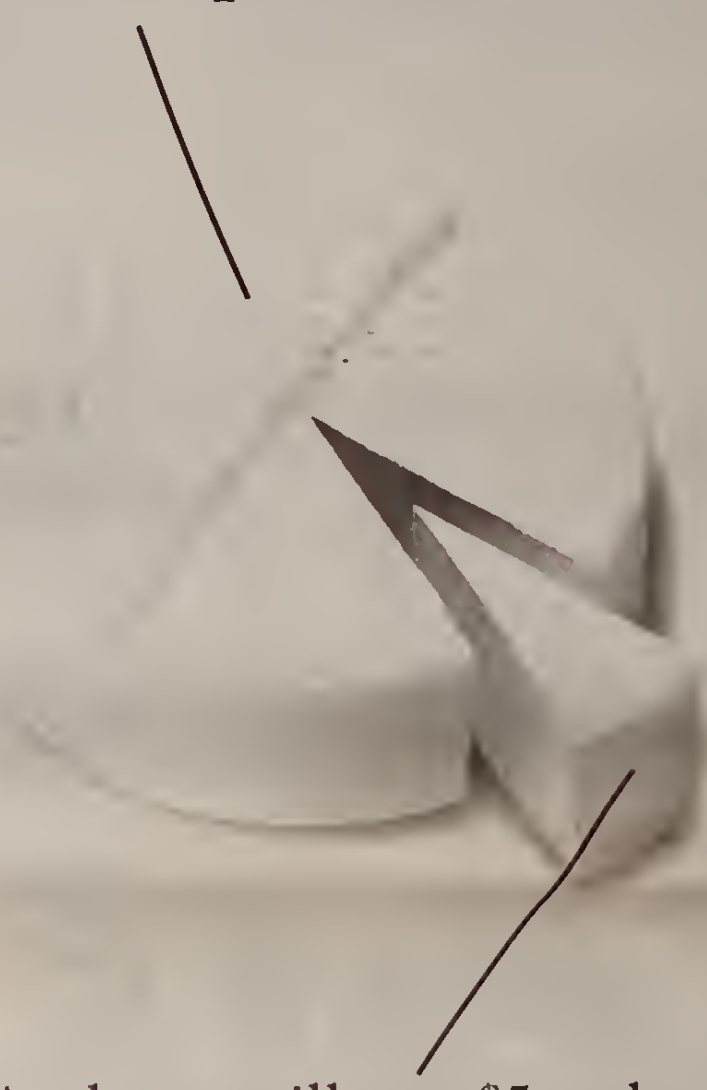

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ART REVIEW *Triumph Brewery*

Caught in the Act: The Theater Photography of George Vogel

George Vogel is a photographer whose work, like that of his colleague, E.J. Greenblat, appears regularly in these pages. While they both handle a whole range of assignments, each of them has developed a field of expertise. Greenblat covers the Princeton Fire Department, and his photos of the various squads in action were the subject of a recent exhibit. George Vogel covers McCarter Theater, photographing actors, dancers, acrobats, and musicians in rehearsal and performance. The results can be seen in "On Stage," which is on view through January 22 at Triumph Brewery in Princeton.

While you may have seen a number of these photographs in Town Topics, don't let a familiarity with the subject matter keep you away. The black and white image of Lily Tomlin with arms outstretched in a recent issue has obvious merits as a photograph, but it looks like a sketch next to the large, full-color portrait in the exhibit.

Perhaps you have doubts about the prospect of a photography exhibit in a brewery. Granted, the lighting can be problematic; if you go in the afternoon you'll have a better chance to appreciate the show because at night when the lights are turned low, you might need a flashlight to see the pictures, at least those on the ground floor. Aware of this aspect of the venue, Vogel made sure that much of his best work was in the well-lit conference room on the upper level. Triumph may lack the state-of-the-art display facilities of a museum, but it does offer certain advantages. For a start, it's a spectacular space. You enter by way of a long sloping corridor a bit reminscent of the entryways moviegoers used to follow from the front lobby to the auditorium in a big movie house. Like me, you may even prefer prowling from picture to picture in a space with a nocturnal ambience rather than doing the old art-observer two-step in a starkly lit gallery. In addition to the atmospheric lighting there's the way the lofty ceiling on the upper level lifts your eyes and makes it seem that you've wandered onto a stage set. And unless you're a Triumph regular, you'll be struck by the the six enormous shiny cylindrical vats looming above the long bar like some mixed-media abstract expressionist's version of the engine room on the Titanic. When you walk up the stairway and lean on the balcony looking down on the bar, the theatrical effect is even more pronounced. No wonder Triumph and McCarter have formed something of a partnership, with Triumph naming a beer after every new McCarter production. One of Vogel's photographs shows cast members at the bar drinking a toast.

GERTRUDE'S SHADOW: Hamlet's mother actually appears to be being menaced by her own shadow in George Vogel's photograph of a scene from Daniel Fish's daring Berlind Theatre production of "Hamlet."

CONVERSATION AS A FINE ART: George Vogel rushed into McCarter just in time to catch Cornel West intently listening as Harry Belafonte makes a point during their onstage dialogue last May.

The enormous difference between the newsprint shadows and the real thing is worth emphasizing. For example, look at the photo of Cornel West and Harry Belafonte that ran on the front page of the May 18 issue of Town Topics. As a news photo it's brilliant; the two men are truly engaged, the sharp contrasts further heightened by the black background. The caption provides the necessary information that West is listening intently to Belafonte and that the theme of their McCarter Theatre conversation is "Africa and Globalization: Bridging the Development Divide." Enlarge the same image and frame it, and you have a subject fit for a sculptor or a painter: the archetype of an intellectual exchange with one figure intently listening, the other expressing an idea with hands outstretched. As the photographer himself admits, it was a happy coming together of timing, instinct, and setting. It wasn't his idea to place the two water bottles on the table between the men to create a sort of subplot or mirror image of the primary subject. Nor did he choose to make the background so black. Nor did he prescribe that one figure be in a dark suit and one in white. What he did do was show up at McCarter in time to be told the two men onstage were up to something interesting, whereupon he rushed inside the theatre and took three pictures. As with most of Vogel's McCarter images, including the close-ups of actors caught in some memorably expressive moment, it was shot from the back of the orchestra.

At Triumph be sure to check all the nooks and crannies on the ground floor. Otherwise you might miss the dream vision pastels and parasols in *Foir Ladies ot a Game of Poem Cards* or the *Peking Acrobats*, particularly the frozen tension in the shot of a man balanced 30 feet above the stage on a tower of chairs balanced on two bottles. Still, the real show stoppers are in the red-walled conference room where you'll see, among other things, Lily Tomlin with open arms; the human sculpture and harlequin color patterns embodied by the Pilobolus Dance company; another sculpture or painting in embryo in the form of the Balinese dancer with, as Vogel puts it in his statement, "every nuance in perfect alignment from the curvature of her fingers to the angle of her head and legs and her astounding eyes." The photo of two actors ("Frank and Emily") rehearsing a scene reminded me of the stylized postures in the paintings at the the University Art Museum's "Legacy of Homer" exhibit, the man's torso slumped back across the bed, the woman with arms upraised.

Looking for images to accompany this review, which is necessarily confined to good old black and white, I've passed over some of the most spectacularly colorful pieces and have chosen the two images that seemed best suited to the Town Topics format. The West-Belafonte photograph already discussed is one. The other is a shot from Daniel Fish's imaginative production of Hamlet, where Gertrude, Hamlet's mother, casts a shadow so sinister it's tempting to see it, as Hamlet might, as the image of her sin. This is one instance, as the photographer himself would admit, where chance definitely played a part in the striking outcome.

George Vogel's other photographic pursuit for the past few years has been contributing illustrations to a handsome book, just published, *Princeton, Still Moking History* (Indigo Custom Publishing), which contains over 35 of his pictures, the cover photo among them, and can also be seen at Triumph or purchased at local bookstores. All the works in "On Stage" are also for sale.

—Stuart Mitchner

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A THING OF BEAUTY: The lobby in The Children's Theatre Company building redesigned by Princeton's Michael Graves features a wood frame assembled from timbers reclaimed from the Big Jo flour mill that once stood along the Mississippi downriver from Minneapolis.

Michael Graves Redesigns Children's Theatre Space

Princeton Architect Michael Graves's recently completed redesign of The Children's Theatre Company (CTC) in Minneapolis, including a 45,000-square-foot expansion, was the first renovation of the building since 1974. The original design was by Kenzo Tange.

"I have always felt that the arts are vital to any community, especially when they inspire our youth," Mr. Graves said.

The new facility designed by Mr. Graves and Principal-in-Charge Patrick Burke houses the Cargill Stage, a 288-seat theatre space programmed primarily for teens and preschoolers. The core audience for the CTC had previously been children from ages five through 12. With this second theater, the CTC hopes to appeal to both toddlers and teenagers.

The theatre is a highly flexible space designed to accomodate players and audiences in many configurations. The lobby features a dramatic wood frame assembled from timbers reclaimed from the Big Jo flour mill that once stood along the Mississippi about 90 miles downriver from Minneapolis. According to Mr. Burke, "The lobby and the flexible theater are intended to act as frames — literally and symbolically — for a wide variety of performing arts ativities."

The project also supports a major expansion of CTC's educational programs that includes four classrooms, a dance studio, a multi-purpose student performance center, and a lounge. "This expansion is the result of amazingly detailed attention to our mission, vision, and values, and every inch of space is brilliantly used to support our new programming," said CTC artistic director Peter C. Brosius. "Michael Graves has suceeded brilliantly in creating a building that is playful, yet does not patronize."

"We intentionally designed the building with a multitude of windows to make the energy and imagination of CTC visible to the surrounding community," Mr. Graves pointed out. "With this expansion ... the leading theatre for young people and families in North America is opening its walls to the world."

OPENING ITS WALLS TO TO THE WORLD: The facade of The Children's Theatre Company building in Minneapolis as redesigned by Michael Graves & Associates of Princeton. The multitude of windows, according to Mr. Graves, is to "make the imagination" of the company "visible to the surrounding community."

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DOROTHY'S SLIPPERS: Elizabeth McCue's massive recreation of Dorothy's ruby slippers from *The Wizard of Oz* is one of the outdoor works of sculpture on display at the new sculpture park at PDS through June 15, 2006.

Singer and Painter Maher At Peggy Lewis Gallery

Deborah Maher, an artist, opera singer, and teacher will be performing at the opening reception of her show, "Families," on December 17 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Peggy Lewis Gallery in Lambertville. The exhibit will run through January 16, 2006.

Ms. Maher lives and works in Titusville and New York City, where she teaches voice to people of all ages. She has been a professional opera singer for many years and has performed with the Vienna State Opera. She has also sung for presidents Clinton and Kennedy.

The show includes watercolors, prints, scarves, t-shirts, and painted lamp shades.

At the opening reception Ms. Maher will be performing opera selections with some of her students.

The Peggy Lewis Gallery is located at 6 Lilly Street in Lambertville. Profits from the show support The Friends of the Lambertville Public Library.

Grounds at PDS Feature Work by Three Sculptors

The Anne Reid Art Gallery at Princeton Day School has installed a sculpture park on the grounds of the main campus featuring the works of Dana Stewart, Harry Gordon, and Elizabeth McCue.

Formerly head of the ceramic shell department at the Johnson Atelier, Mr. Stewart has his own foundry in Lambertville. His 9-foot bronze-cast creatures reflect his love of art and animals.

Harry Gordon creates massive wood and stone works, including *Passage*, a 42,000 pound granite sculpture on view on the PDS grounds. His work is in the collections of the J. Seward Johnson Sculpture Garden at the Grounds for Sculpture and the James A. Michener Museum, among others.

Elizabeth McCue, whose work is in the collection of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, has transformed Dorothy's red slippers from the *Wizard of Oz* into a larger-than-life sculptural installation that can be played in and on.

The outdoor works can be seen until June 15, 2006 at PDS, 650 the Great Road, Princeton.

A SINGER'S ART: This work by singer-painter Deborah Maher is part of her one-woman show, "Families," at the Peggy Lewis Gallery at 6 Lilly Street in Lambertville. The exhibit will run through January 16, 2006. Ms. Maher, a professional opera singer, will sing at the opening reception on December 17, from 2 to 5 p.m.

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Another Angle Salon at 362 Nassau Street is presenting photographer Tasha O'Neill's exhibit, "Reflections and Juxtapositions,"from now until April, 2006. For further information, call (609) 924-7733.

The Artful Deposit Gallery at 201 Farnsworth Avenue in Bordentown, in collaboration with Tatiana Popova, is currently presenting an exhibit of originals from 12 of Gennady Spirin's award-winning illustrated books for children. Also on display will be limited edition prints and books. The show will run until January 3. Mr. Spirin will be present to meet the public on December 17 from 1 to 4 p.m.

A.R.T.space Gallery of Palmer Square is currently exhibiting "Small Works," a show featuring small paintings and works on paper by the artists of Artistic Realization Technologies(A.R.T.). Located at 53 Hulfish Street in Princeton, the gallery is open from 12 to 6 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, 2 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, and 12 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. "Small Works" will be open through December.

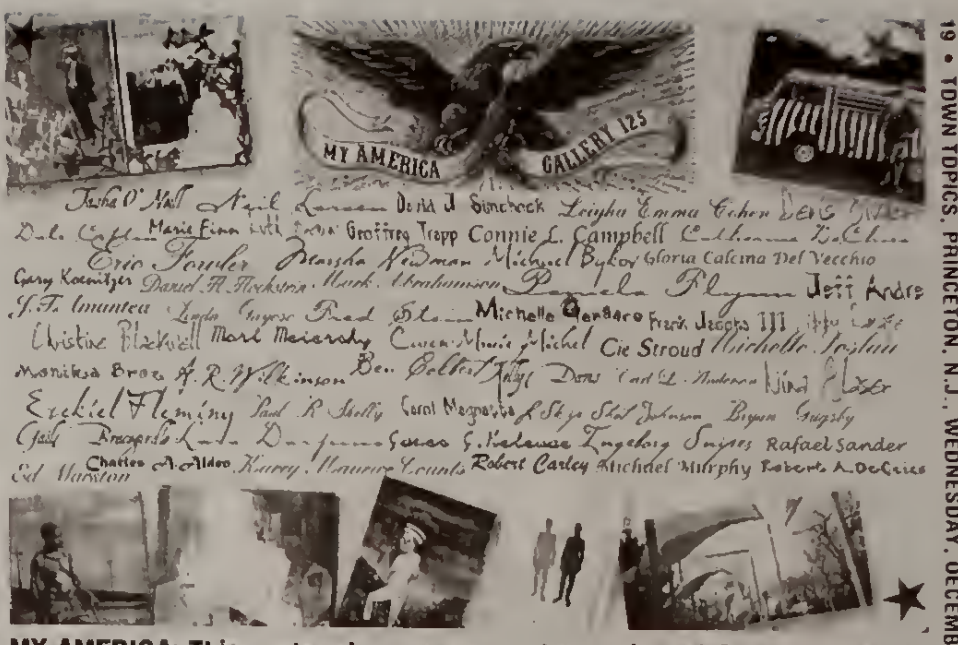
The Arts Council of Princeton's conTEMPORARY Arts Center, located at the Princeton Shopping Center, is featuring "From Chaos to Hope," an exhibition of photographs taken by eight local residents with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) at a volunteer camp in Gulfport, Miss. The exhibit is on display in the Reading Room. The annual "Sauce for the Goose" holiday sale will be on through December 22. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.For more information, call (609) 924-8777.

The Coryell Gallery at 8 Coryell Street in Lambertville is showing oil paintings by Albert L. Bross, Jr., and watercolors and acrylics by Vincent Ceglia for the annual Holiday Exhibition, which will run through January 16, 2006. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 12 to 5 p.m. For further information, call Janet M. Hunt, director, at (609) 397-0804.

The Cotsen Children's Library at Princeton University is celebrating the bicentenary of Hans Christian Andersen's birth with the exhibition, "Wonderful Stories for Pictures: Hans Christian Andersen and His Illustrators," on view through March 26, 2006. For more information, call (609) 258-1148, or email ejohnson@princeton.edu.

Gallery 125 at 125 South Warren Street across from the Trenton Marriott Hotel is presenting "My America," a juried exhibition of more than 50 artists whose works reflect on the theme of what America means to them. The exhibit, which runs through February 3, 2006, is a prelude to Patriot's Week, December 26 - 31, the annual festival of history, art, and culture celebrating Trenton's role in the American Revolution. Hours are Tuesday through Friday from noon to 6 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Gallery at Chapin is hosting an exhibit of works by Whitney Cookman in an exhibit titled, "Light, Canvas and Wood, Recent Work," through December 15. The gallery is located at 4101 Princeton Pike. To view the exhibit by appointment, call (609) 924-7206.



MY AMERICA: This poster shows some works on view at Gallery 125's "My America," a juried exhibition of more than 50 artists whose signatures are featured on the poster and whose works reflect on the theme of what America means to them. The exhibit, which runs through February 3, 2006, is a prelude to Patriot's Week, December 26 - 31, the annual festival of history, art, and culture celebrating Trenton's role in the American Revolution. Gallery 125 is located at 125 South Warren Street across from the Trenton Marriott Hotel. Hours are Tuesday through Friday from noon to 6 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Gallery at the Jewish Center will be showing paintings by Philadelphia painter Alla Podolsky through January 8, 2006. All paintings in the exhibit are for sale, with 20 percent of the purchase going to the Jewish Center as a donation. The Center is located at 435 Nassau Street, and gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call (609) 921-0100.

The Gallery at Mercer County Community College is exhibiting, "The Human Face," photographs by artists Helen Stummer, Diane Levell, and the late Lou Draper. The exhibit will be on display through December 21. Gallery hours are Mondays, 10 a.m. to noon; Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.; and Fridays, 9 to 11 a.m. For further information, call (609) 586-4800, ext. 3588.

Grounds for Sculpture is currently displaying three exhibits: "Menhirs, Dreams, Myths, and Deities," "Balanced Dialogue: 10th Anniversary of the Hungarian Sculptors Society," and the International Sculpture Center's 2005 Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Awards. The exhibits will be on view through April 30, 2006. **Toad Hall Shop and Gallery**, at Grounds, is currently exhibiting "Vessels," a show featuring metal sculptures by Rory Mahon and Catherine Perry, through December 31.Grounds for Sculpture is located at 18 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton. Hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call (609) 586-0616, or visit www.groundsforsculpture.org.

Continued on Next Page

WALTER'S TABLE/BREE ANNE: Riverbank Arts, Inc. in Stockton, N.J. is currently showing recent work by David Baker, including this oil on panel. Located at 19 Bridge Street, Riverbank represents over 100 area artists. Hours are 12 to 5 p.m Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and Sunday; and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

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Triumph of David, ca. 1475–1500
Terracotta with remains of gesso, polychromy, and gilding. Museum purchase, Carl Otto von Kienbusch Jr. Memorial Collection (y1956-2) (photograph: Bruce M. White)

MUSEUM HOURS AND INFORMATION

Tuesday through Saturday:
10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 1:00–5:00 p.m.
General Information:
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Exhibitions

The Legacy of Homer: Four Centuries of Art from the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris
Through January 15, 2006

Jacques-Louis David's *Antiochus and Stratonice*: The Poetics of French History Painting
Through January 15, 2006

Homer's Laughter: Honoré Daumier's *Ancient History*
Through January 15, 2006

Homeric Themes in Italian Renaissance and Baroque Art
Through January 15, 2006

Between Image and Concept: Recent Acquisitions in African-American Art
Through February 26, 2006

Chantal Akerman: *25ème écran*
Through February 26, 2006

Continued from Preceding Page

The Harrison Street Gallery will show, "Off the Wall: An Evolving Exhibition," through January 8, 2006. The gallery is located at 108 Harrison Street, Frenchtown. Hours are Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (908) 996-0062.

The Historical Society of Princeton is currently exhibiting, "U.S. Presidents: Famous Faces in Princeton Places," and "The Windmill Turns Slowly: Photographs of the Updike Farm," on view through summer 2006. Museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call (609) 921-6748.

The Hunterdon Museum of Art is currently displaying three exhibits: "Liminal States," "High Caliber: Guns in Contemporary Art," and "Rags to Riches." Located in Clinton, the gallery is open Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (908) 735-8415.

The James A. Michener Art Museum in Doylestown is featuring "Romare Bearden: Enchanter in Time" through February 5, 2006. "Paul Keene: His Art & His Legacy" can be seen through December 31 in the Fred Beans Gallery; "New Orleans: A Beloved City," an exhibition of photographs taken in the mid-1980s by Michael A. Smith, is on view in the Betz Gallery through February 19, 2006. As part of its ongoing Outdoor Sculpture Program, the Michener is also exhibiting "In the Beginning," an installation of sculpture by Kevin Forest that will be on view through February 26. The museum is located at 138 South Pine Street in Doylestown. The New Hope Michener is currently exhibiting "Objects of Desire: Treasures From Private Collections," on view through January 15, 2006. The museum is located at 500 Union Square Drive. For more information about either exhibit, call (215) 340-9800, or visit www.michenerartmuseum.org.

The Jane Vorhees Zimmerli Art Museum's feature exhibition, "Breaking the Mold: Sculpture in Paris from Daumier to Rodin," will be on view through March 12, 2006, in the Vorhees Special Exhibition Galleries. The museum is located at 71 Hamilton Street, on the College Avenue Campus of Rutgers University in New Brunswick. Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and noon to 5 p.m. on the weekends. The museum is open free to the public on the first Sunday of every month. For more information, call (732) 932-7237, ext. 610, or visit www.zimmerlimuseum.rutgers.edu.

Morpeth Gallery is exhibiting the work of Natalie Ferracci in conjunction with a group exhibition of Morpeth Gallery artists during the month of December. The gallery is located at 43 West Broad Street in Hopewell. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Newark Museum is exhibiting "Power Dressing: Men's Fashion and Prestige in Africa" through January 22, 2006. The museum is located at 49 Washington Street in the Downtown/Arts District of Newark. It is open Wednesday through Friday, noon to 5 p.m., and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the weekends. For more information, call (973) 596-6550, or visit www.NewarkMuseum.org.

The New Jersey State Museum is holding the exhibit, "Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs and Babies" through December 31. This hands-on exhibition offers an array of authentic dinosaur eggs and nests collected from all over the globe. The gallery is located at 225 West State Street, Trenton, and is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (609) 394-9535.

The Peggy Lewis Gallery at 6 Lilly Street in Lambertville is presenting an exhibit of watercolors, prints, scarves, t-shirts, and painted lamp shades by opera singer Deborah Maher, who will be performing at the opening reception of her show, "Families," on December 17 from 2 to 5 p.m. The exhibit will run through January 16, 2006.

The Present Day Club is exhibiting artwork by Joseph Gyurcsak, through January 1, 2006. The gallery is located at 72 Stockton Street, and is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (609) 924-4846.

The Princeton Day School is featuring works by sculptors Dana Stewart, Harry Gordon, and Elizabeth McCue in a recently installed sculpture park on the grounds of the main campus. The display will be on view until June 15, 2006. The school is at 650 the Great Road, Princeton.

The Princeton University Art Museum is presenting an intimate, single-monitor installation by the Belgian filmmaker Chantal Akerman through February 26, 2006. In addition to the primary exhibit, "The Legacy of Homer," which will run through January 15. Open to the public without charge Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m., the museum is located in the center of the Princeton University campus, next to Prospect House and Gardens. For further information, call (609) 258-3788 or visit www.princetonartmuseum.org.

Princeton University, Mudd Library, is currently exhibiting, "1945: A World Unified and Divided," which highlights the epochal year that marked the end of World War II. The exhibit, which runs through January 31, 2006, includes documents, letters, diaries, and photographs drawn from Mudd Library's and Princeton University's archives. The exhibit can be viewed Monday through Friday, 8:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The exhibit is also open Wednesdays until 8 p.m. Mudd Library is located at 65 Olden St., on Princeton University's campus. For more information, call (609) 258-6345.

Riverbank Arts, Inc. at 19 Bridge Street in Stockton is currently showing recent work by David Baker. Hours are 12 to 5 p.m Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 6 Friday and Saturday.

Small World Coffee will be exhibiting the paintings of alternative folk rocker and Princeton High School graduate Chris Harford through January 3. A free night of music featuring Chris Harford and the Band of Changes will take place at the cafe from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. on December 17.

THE CONNOISSEURS: This acrylic on canvas by Princeton resident B.F. Graham is part of "Occupations," an exhibit running through December 21 at the Nexus Projects Gallery, 24 West S7th Street, #301, in New York. The exhibit is curated by Alexander Oppenheimer. Gallery hours are from Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Suzanne Patterson Resource Center and the Williams Gallery of Fine Art are holding a joint exhibition at the Resource Center celebrating Princeton art and artists titled, "In and Around Princeton." A portion of the proceeds from the sale of artwork will be donated to the Center, which is located at 45 Stockton Street, behind Borough Hall. Hours are weekdays, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (609) 921-1142.

The Trenton City Museum, in collaboration with McCarter Theatre, is currently exhibiting, "Preserving Our Past: An Inspiring Exhibit Honoring Those Who Chronicle Our Heritage," on display through January 22, 2006. The exhibit, which is tied to McCarter's production of Gem of the Oceon, features the Arts Council of Princeton's quilt, a photographic tribute to the Witherspoon-Jackson neighborhood. Also on display from now through January 8, 2006: "Rock, Paper:The Extraordinary Work of Petro Hul and Sarah Stengle." Located in the Ellarslie Mansion in Cadwalader Park in Trenton, the museum's hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, call (609) 989-3632.

Triumph Brewery is currently showing over 40 of Town Topics photographer George Vogel's theater photographs. The works are best seen in the afternoon hours, between 1 and 4 p.m. The exhibit runs through January 22.

VARIATIONS ON A FLUTE PLAYER: This acrylic on paper is on display in "Paul Keene: His Art & His Legacy" through December 31 in the Fred Beans Gallery at the James A. Michener Art Museum, 138 South Pine Street in Doylestown.

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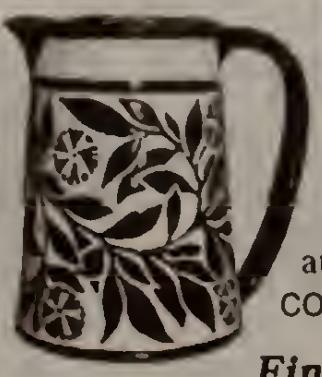

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MUSIC REVIEW

Princeton University Orchestra Shows Off Best of Concerto Players in Works of Brahms and Mahler

Princeton University may not be a music conservatory, but over the past few years (especially with the establishment of the Certificate Program), the Music Department has produced some musical stars. Among those stars this year are the two remaining siblings of the Carpenter trio. The oldest brother recently graduated, and the two remaining Carpenters, violist David and violinist Lauren, regularly perform both within and outside the confines of the University Orchestra. A co-winner of the 2005 Princeton University Concerto Competition, Lauren Carpenter's most recent starring moment with the orchestra was this past weekend in a blazing performance of Brahms *Violin Concerto in D Major* a concert which was even able to stop Princeton students on their way to their winter formals for a bit of classical music in Richardson Auditorium.

Composed in 1878, this concerto is very much in the tradition of Beethoven's late symphonies, with a solo part that is pretty ferocious, even for Brahms. A long orchestral introduction to the opening "Allegro" gave Ms. Carpenter plenty of time to get in the right musical mindset for her fierce and demanding opening solo passages, and she did not disappoint in her interpretation. Ms. Carpenter took her time with the phrasing and play of the music. A player of great determination, she also used the cadenza to the first movement to explore a wide range of dynamics and double stops.

Ms. Carpenter collaborated well with conductor Michael Pratt to bring out the best from the orchestra throughout the rest of the concerto. In the second movement "Adagio," a solo oboe and clarinet, supported by the rest of the winds, accompanied Ms. Carpenter's extremely dolce playing. The soloist led the way through the closing Rondo, demonstrating that she is a decisive player with a clear idea of what she wants from the music.

Ms. Carpenter was one of the winners of this years Concerto Competition. The other was senior Sean Effinger-Dean, a baritone currently studying with University faculty member Mary Nessinger. For his prize performance, Mr. Effinger-Dean chose some pretty challenging repertoire for a man of his age: Gustav Mahler's *Lieder eines fohrenden Gesellen* (Songs *of a Wayfarer*). These four songs, like many of Mahler's works, capture the turbulence and emotional commotion of a given period in his life, in this case his love for a coloratura soprano. Mr. Effinger-Dean took these songs on fearlessly, demonstrating self-possession in presentation and full command of the music, as well as a voice which moved exceedingly well through the registers.

Passages in these songs extend well into the tenor range, and Mr. Effinger-Dean was careful to extend his range very lightly, such as on the text "and then in the sunshine at once the world began to twinkle" and from the second song, "I went out this morning over the field." He contrastingly demonstrated a very rich tone in the subsequent song, well accompanied by the instruments. Both instruments and singer moved well through the moods of the verses of each song, especially ending the last song elegantly.

Mr. Pratt paired these two concerto performances with works which confirmed the ensemble's solid preparation and collective musicianship. Claude Debussys *Prelude to The Afternoon of a Faun* opened the concert with a languid solo flute, played with mellowness and subtlety. Mr. Pratt took a great deal of space within the silences in the piece, with the characteristic dissonances not rubbed in too much. With this approach, the music was very picturesque. Tranquil oboe playing was provided by Connor Ross, and harpists Annabelle Beaver and Joanna Shawruss added an effective impressionistic touch to the texture.

This work was contrasted by Manuel de Falla's *Three Dances from The Three Cornered Hot*, a ballet suite depicting a comedy taking place in Spain. The second dance in particular was very Eastern in nature, led by solo oboist Peter Varela and solo hornist James Marvel, as well as pianist Jennifer Chu. The orchestra volume was never out of control, becoming the loudest of the concert in the third Final Dance. The dynamic build in the strings was especially exciting.

Although no tour seems to be planned this year for the orchestra, the rest of the season appears to be challenging, beginning in February 2006 with a repeat of the Debussy *Prelude to The Afternoon of a Faun*, as part of the Program in Theater and Dance Spring Dance Festival. This performance will take place on February 24 (with repeats on the 25th and 26th) in Berlind Theater in the McCarter Theatre Center.

—Nancy Plum

New Jersey Symphony Slates Concert Series Commemorating Mozart

The 250th anniversary of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart will provide the theme for The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra's annual three-week festival of concerts in January. The 2006 Winter Festival, entitled *The Many Faces of Mozart*, will focus on the music and explore the enigmatic nature of the composer.

The festival, stretching over three weeks at various New Jersey concert halls, will present music of Mozart that is both familiar and relatively obscure to today's audiences. Ancillary events will examine the composer and the myths surrounding him, including the background of his storied rivalry with Antonio Salieri and the debated findings regarding the "Mozart Effect."

The festival will feature three separate orchestral programs, each preceded by a Festival Prelude; several lecture-performances; and outreach efforts to students in area high schools and universities. New this year will be a "Play In" during which the audience will be encouraged to bring musical instruments for a collaborative playing of Mozart's most famous work, *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*.

The first week of concerts, entitled *Mozart's Autumn Years*, will feature works composed by Mozart in the final years of his life, including the overture to his last opera, *La Clemenza di Tito*, his *Fontasia in F Minor*, his *Clarinet Concerto*, and his 41st and final symphony, *The Jupiter Symphony*. Locally, the concert will be performed on Thursday, January 12 at 8 p.m. at the State Theatre in New Brunswick.

The second week of performances, entitled *Mozart and the Voice*, will be dedicated to vocal works, specifically excerpts from *The Magic Flute* and the *Requiem*. Also featured on this program will be Mozart's *Masonic Funeral Music*, composed in 1785. Guest conductor Bernard Labadie will make his conducting debut with the NJSO in these performances, with guest soloists and the Westminster Choir. Locally, the concert will be performed on Saturday, January 21 at 8 p.m. at the Patriots Theater at the War Memorial, Trenton.

The final week of the festival, titled *Mozart the Pianist*, will feature a performance demonstration of Mozart's Concert-Rondo on both the modern piano and its forerunner, the fortepiano. Pianist-conductor Vladimir Feltsman will solo in this work, as well as lead the NJSO in Mozart's *Symphony No. 25*, the familiar *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, and the *Piono Concerto No. 24*. *Mozart the Pianist* will be heard on Friday, January 27 at 8 p.m. at Richardson Auditorium, and again on Sunday, January 29 at 3 p.m. at the State Theatre in New Brunswick.

The lecture-performances preceding each concert will examine specific elements related to the ensuing performance, such as the popularity of mechanical instruments in the 18th century, Mozart's vocal music, or the keyboard instruments of the composer's time.

The tribute to Mozart featuring the "Play-In" of *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* will take place at NJPAC's Prudential Hall in Newark on Saturday, January 28 at 3 p.m. Amateur musicians in the audience will be invited to join the NJSO for the performance.

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State Theatre Books Peter, Paul and Mary For Spring Concert

New Brunswick's State Theatre has announced that it will host the Grammy Award-winning folk trio Peter, Paul, and Mary on Friday, April 28 at 8 p.m. The performance will be the debut concert of the trio's Spring 2006 Tour.

Known for hits such as *Leaving on a Jet Plane*, *Blowin' in the Wind*, and *Puff (The Magic Dragon)*, the trio has scheduled a tour of approximately 12 concerts. "We're thrilled to be their first stop on this tour," said Wesley O. Brustad, State Theatre president. "They're one of the most popular groups of the 1960s, their roots run deep, and their appeal spans four generations of folk fans."

Mary Travers, who is recovering from leukemia and a bone marrow transplant earlier this year, performed for the first time since November 2004 with Peter Yarrow and Noel Paul Stookey in a holiday concert December 9 at Carnegie Hall in Manhattan. She has received more than 10,000 e-mails from well-wishers around the world. "The messages were so heartfelt and so lovely," she said. "You really get to a place where you begin to feel all that goodwill, all those prayers are really part of the medicine that makes you well."

No American folk group has lasted longer or amassed a more loyal following than Peter, Paul and Mary. Few groups of any genre have logged more years (43) or miles in yearly touring, spreading the message, and engaging the next generation. During its legendary career, the trio has won five Grammys, and produced five Top 10 albums, 13 Top 40 hits, and six gold and three platinum albums.

Tickets range from $35 to $75, and will go on sale this Friday, December 16 at 10 a.m. To order, call the State Theatre box office at (732) 246-7469, or visit www.StateTheatreNJ.org.

The State Theatre is located at 15 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick.

Voices Chorale Names Festival Concert Soloists

Pennington's Voices Chorale, an auditioned community chorus of 60 singers, has named soprano Rochelle Ellis and baritone Matthew Shaw as soloists for its annual *Festival of Candles and Carols* concerts this weekend in Pennington and Princeton. The concerts are Friday, December 16 at 8 p.m. at Pennington Presbyterian Church, and Saturday, December 17 at 8 p.m. at Princeton United Methodist Church. Lynne Ransom will conduct.

Matthew Shaw

The soloists and chorus will be accompanied by harp, cello, and organ in performances of *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* by R. Vaughan Williams and *Christmas Flourish* by Randol Alan Bass.

Rochelle Ellis

Ms. Ellis will present Mozart's *Laudate Dominum* with the chorale and add a few of her own seasonal favorites to the program. Her Carnegie Hall debut was as soloist for the Schubert *Mass in G* and Bach's *Cantata 140* with the Orchestra of St. Luke's and the Westminster Choir, conducted by Joseph Flummerfelt. She made her international concert debut performing the Verdi *Requiem* with the National Opera of China in Beijing.

Mr. Shaw will be the soloist in *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*. He opened the Carnegie Hall season on September 16 as soloist in Bach's *Cantata BMV 146*. He performed the role of Aeneas in a tour of *Dido and Aeneas* with the Aix-en-Provence Festival. His debut at Philadelphia's Kimmel Center was as soloist in *Solomon* with the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia.

Tickets are $18 for general admission, $15 for seniors and students, and $8 for children 12 and under. Family passes are available for $42. To order, call (609) 637-9383. For more information, visit www.voiceschorale.org.

The Pennington Presbyterian Church is located at 13 South Main Street, Pennington; the Princeton United Methodist Church, at Nassau and Vandeventer Streets.

New Orchestra to Debut At Public Library Series

The Princeton Public Library will host the debut performance of the Princeton Garage Orchestra, a new intergenerational ensemble led by Princeton composer Ira J. Mowitz, this Friday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m. The concert will be part of the Library's "Unquiet Fridays" series.

The program is free and open to the public.

Organized by the Princeton Recreation Department, the Garage Orchestra comprises young people and adults with diverse musical backgrounds who enjoy making music together. Children, teens, and adults who have taken a year or more of lessons are invited to bring their instruments to the library to join the new ensemble, which will perform original music and versions of pop songs.

Mr. Mowitz is noted for his computer music compositions, having written extensively for instruments in combination with computer music. A former string bass player and cocktail pianist, he said he particularly enjoys working with children. He has included his sons' voices, school, and playground sounds in much of his recent work.

Mr. Mowitz's music has been featured on NPR's *All Things Considered* and the BBC, and has been performed by the Brooklyn Philharmonic and choreographed by the National Dance Company of Spain. A graduate of Trinity College, Hartt College, and Princeton University, he also studied at the Salzburg Mozarteum, the Wiener Hochschule für Musik, and Stanford University. He has received grants and commissions from the Guggenheim, Rockefeller, NEA, and Fulbright Foundations, among others.

Unquiet Fridays is a series of cultural and personal enrichment programs for which the library remains open late one Friday night each month. Upcoming programs include the Princeton University a cappella ensemble Shere Khan on Friday, January 27 at 7:30 p.m., and a community reading of Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* on Friday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m.

For more information on the Garage Orchestra's performance at the library, call Susan Roth at (609) 924-9529, ext. 257.

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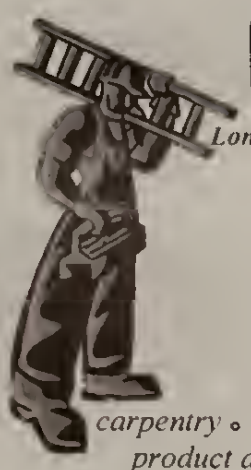

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TINY NO LONGER: To celebrate its 25th anniversary production of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," McCarter Theatre last week invited all of those who had played the role of Tiny Tim at McCarter to attend the opening night on December 9. The Tims who were able to attend the reunion were, back row from left, Clarke McFarlane (1980), Alex Mitchell (1995), Nykal Rambharan (1996), Ben Rose (1997 and 1998), Andrew Black (1995), and Truestar Urlan (1987); and, in front, Josh Rose (1999 to 2002), Jason Rosenthal (2004), Desmond Confoy (2002), Danny Hallowell (2003 to 2005), Alec Richards (2000), and Michael Perl (1996). The play is continuing at McCarter through December 24. For tickets, call (609) 258-2787. *(Photo by George Vogel)*

"Christmas Carol" Reunion Brings Back 12 Tiny Tims

As *A Christmas Carol* opened its 25th season last week at McCarter Theatre, a celebratory reception was held on Friday honoring 12 previous performers of the Tiny Tim role. Those attending were Clarke McFarlane (1980), Alex Mitchell (1995), Nykal Rambharan (1996), Ben Rose (1997 and 1998), Andrew Black (1995), Truestar Urlan (1987), Josh Rose (1999 to 2002), Jason Rosenthal (2004), Desmond Confoy (2002), Alec Richards (2000), Michael Perl (1996), and Danny Hallowell, who has had the role for the past three years.

Mr. Urlan, 24, recalled playing the role in 1987, when he was just six years old. "When I was in the show the entire stage would rotate," he said. "Now it's a totally different production."

The set, which is in its sixth season, was created by Ming Cho Lee. While it still carries the feel of old-time England Mr. Urlan said, it has a more modern design, and is more "high tech" than the one he remembered.

Mr. Urlan, a lieutenant with the Princeton Fire Department and an art education major at The College of New Jersey, has a personal tie to Danny Hallowell, the current Tiny Tim. "I've taught him and his entire family swim lessons," he said, recalling his days at Community Park Pool.

Of his own time in the theater, which lasted just two years playing parts in *A Christmas Carol*, Mr. Urlan said it was "really intimidating — but helped me open up and be more comfortable around people."

While it may appear that Mr. Hallowell fits the part with his thick blonde head of hair, McCarter has had Tiny Tims of many different backgrounds, including Jewish and African-American children.

A Christmas Carol is continuing at McCarter through December 24. For tickets, call (609) 258-2787.

— Candace Braun

FUND-RAISING FUN: Cast and chorus members of the Princeton High School production of "Love's Labour's Lost," directed by Patricia Wray, convened recently to kick off the Take a Seat fund-raising campaign for the new Performing Arts Center scheduled to open at the school next year.

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"WONDERFUL" COLLABORATORS: The director Frank Capra and actor James Stewart, shown here on the set of the film "It's a Wonderful Life," will be the subjects of discussion this Saturday when the Princeton Public Library kicks off its three-part film series examining Mr. Stewart's post-World War II films. The series, led by film historian Bruce Lawton, will continue with screenings in January and February.

Public Library to Screen Films of James Stewart

A new three-part film series examining the post-World War II films of James Stewart will debut at Princeton Public Library this Saturday, December 17 at 3 p.m., when film historian Bruce Lawton leads screenings and discussions of *Bell, Book and Candle* and *It's a Wonderful Life*.

Mr. Stewart, who portrayed the American everyman in a career spanning 90 films, left a remarkable cinematic legacy. The library series will focuses on the films the Princeton University graduate made after serving in World War II, which Mr. Lawton said had a significant impact on the actor's film career.

"The war affected him deeply," said Mr. Lawton. "This is reflected in the his postwar performances, particularly in his choice of roles."

In *Bell, Book and Candle*, Stewart plays a Manhattan book publisher who is bewitched by a moody art dealer, played by Kim Novak. The cast also includes Jack Lemmon, Trenton native Ernie Kovacs, and Else Lanchester.

The second film on the December 17 program features Stewart in one of his most enduring roles, George Bailey, a desperate and despairing family man who is given an unusual gift in Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life*.

The series will continue on Saturday, January 14 with a triple feature — *Rope* at 1 p.m., *Winchester '73* at 3 p.m., and *The Spirit of St. Louis* at 7 p.m. The February 18 series finale will feature the films *Jackpot* and *Harvey*.

Mr. Lawton is familiar to library patrons for his previous series focusing of the lesser-known films of Marlon Brando, the spy films of Michael Caine, and the video legacy of the Beatles. A motion picture and video specialist, he is a historian and consultant based in New York and Princeton who has a longtime involvement in film restoration and preservation. At Killiam Shows in New York, he has served as archival director of the company's vast collection of restored silent classics.

For more information on library programs and services, visit www.princetonlibrary.org.

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YOUNG THESPIANS: The winter session of Kelsey Kids Playshops, a children's performing arts workshop at Mercer County Community College, will begin on Saturday, January 14. The 10-week program, tor children from kindergarten through tifth grade, will be offered on Saturday mornings through March 25 at the Kelsey Theatre on MCCC's West Windsor campus. Now in its third year, the program is supervised by Jean Prall Rosolino, who founded Youth Stages in 1996. The maximum class size is 15 children; the cost is $175 per session. Shown in a fall production, from left, are Abigail Valerio of Robbinsville, Olivia Liubers of Princeton Junction, Rhea Kulkarni ot North Brunswick, Nicolette Garthe of Cranbury, and Sophie Stokman of Lawrenceville. For more information call (609) 586-4800, ext. 3566.

Auditions for "Stalag 17" Planned at Kelsey Theatre

Auditions for *Stalag 17* will be held at Mercer County Community College this Saturday, December 17 from noon to 3 p.m., and Sunday, December 18 from 5 to 8 p.m. The audition location will be posted on the signboard at MCCC's Kelsey Theatre on Mercer's West Windsor Campus.

The show will be presented by Like 40 Productions from February 24 to March 5 at the Kelsey Theatre, directed by Dan Spalluto.

Auditioners are asked to prepare a serious, two-minute monologue and to submit a resume and photo if available. The cast will include 21 men ages 18 and up.

Written by World War II prisoners of war, *Stalag 17* is set in a German P.O.W. camp in 1944. Best known for the film version starring William Holden, the suspenseful show chronicles the efforts of American prisoners to weed out the traitor among them who is colluding with the Nazis.

For more information or an audition appointment, call Mr. Spalluto at (609) 584-7718.

ACTOR TO BE INTERVIEWED: Bucks County Playhouse veteran actor Jim Lynch, seen here as Josh Baskin in the theater's 2003 production ot "Big," will be the teatured guest on The Bucks County Entertainment Show (WBCB, 1490 AM) this Friday, December 16 trom 10 to 11 a.m. Mr. Lynch, who has portrayed Harold Hill in "The Music Man," Applegate in "Damn Yankees," and Billy Flynn in "Chicago," is currently appearing at the Playhouse as George Bailey in the musical "It's A Wonderful Life," running through December 23. For tickets, call (215) 862-2041.

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A Curmudgeonly Grinch Back at Off-Broadstreet

How the Grinch Stole Christmas will be presented this week, today through Saturday, December 17 at Hopewell's Off-Broadstreet Theatre as part of its Children's Classics Series. The popular holiday show will star OBT artistic director Robert Thick as the Grinch character. Others in the cast include Curtis Kaine of Princeton, Lauren Brader of Hillsborough, and Eddie Egan of Lawrenceville.

The show features a curmudgeonly Grinch who tries desperately to steal Christmas from the people of Whoville. Accompanied by his dog Max, he tries to take away presents, Christmas trees, and all the holiday fixings. The Grinch is amazed to discover that even without these items, the town still sings and feels the joys of Christmas.

OBT's children's shows are geared for young audiences 2½ to 7. The children are seated on the carpet with the action taking place directly in the middle of them. A ring of chairs around the playing area, for adults and children, allows them to become part of the action with cues and responses that are explained at the beginning of the presentation.

Performances are this Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 10 a.m., Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Admission is $4, with group rates available for parties of 10 or more. For reservations, call the theater box office at (609) 466-2766.

The Off-Broadstreet Theatre is located at 5 South Greenwood Avenue, Hopewell.

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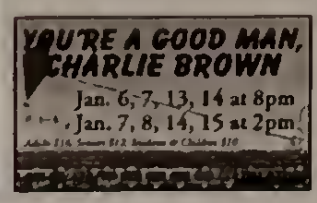

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CINEMA REVIEW — *Syriana*

Over-Plotted Political Potboiler Ultimately Unsatisfying

George Clooney gets an A for effort for taking a steep salary cut, gaining 30 pounds, and handling his own stunts. Unfortunately, the staging of a fight scene on the set backfired and left him with back pain and severe headaches which were subsequently helped by spinal surgery.

One would expect that Clooney's commitment above and beyond the call of duty would result in a movie masterpiece. Unfortunately, the film fails to measure up to its hype.

This espionage thriller was written and directed by Stephen Gaghan, who won an Academy Award for his adaptation of the script for *Traffic*. That examination of the international drug trade had lots of loose ends which were resolved satisfactorily. This less expertly crafted adventure is likely to have you scratching your head as you exit the theater.

DID I FORGET ANYTHING? CIA agent Bob Barnes (George Clooney) checks to make sure he has everything he needs. He has been assigned to assassinate Prince Nasir in order to further the interests of the United States in the oil rich Middle East. *(Photo by Glen Wilson. © 2005 Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. All rights reserved.)*

After closely following a convoluted exposition of facts for over two hours one still can't fit the pieces of the cinematic jigsaw puzzle together. Don't be surprised to find yourself wondering whether you missed a critical clue and then be tempted to see the movie again to comprehend it fully.

Syriana's confusion is exacerbated by the cast of shallow characters. From inscrutable Arab sheiks, double-agents, Muslim fanatics, shady lobbyists, bungling bureaucrats, and crooked captains of industry, the rapid paced production never gives these archetypes enough depth to allow the audience to invest in them emotionally.

Syriana is saturated from start to finish with insinuation and innuendo. Shot primarily on locations in the Middle East, the film weaves a complicated web of intrigue revolving around the ruthless competition for control of the region's oil industry.

At the film's opening, we find CIA Agent Bob Barnes (Clooney) in Iran where a bungled covert operation leaves a rocket launcher in the wrong hands. In a neighboring oil rich country we witness the simmering tensions between Prince Nasir (Alexander Siddig) and his brother, Prince Meshal (Akbar Kurtha), over which of them will ascend to the throne upon the demise of their aging father. Barnes' assignment is to assassinate Nasir, a reformist who has recently approved a deal assigning lucrative drilling rights to China. The U.S. wants Nasir taken out, because his Western oriented brother would be more amenable to American interests.

Energy analyst Bryan Woodman (Matt Damon) confronts an ethical dilemma when his young son dies in a tragic accident during a party thrown by Nasir. Should he accept the blood money offered to make amends and thereby potentially be in Nasir's debt?

Meanwhile, back in the U.S., attorney Bennett Holliday (Jeffrey Wright) has been hired to persuade the Justice Department to approve the acquisition of Killen, a small Texas oil firm, by Connex, a large conglomerate. Connex wants Killen, which received lucrative drilling rights in Kazakhstan, even though the company is being investigated by the government for unscrupulous practices.

Once the merger is approved, Connex plans to downsize and lay off migrant workers from Pakistan. Will the unemployed Pakistanis make them easy recruits for the jihad movement?

Syriana is effective in its effort to illustrate the interconnectedness of the world economy in the oil industry, but the characters are shallow. In the absence of an explanation of anyone's deeper motivations, we are expected to agree with the superficial suggestion that it's all about the oil. Politically paranoid, the movie doesn't really do much more than indict the usual suspects.

Good (★★). Rating: R for profanity and violence. Running time: 126 minutes. Studio: Warner Brothers.

—Kam Williams

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AT THE CINEMA

Aean Flux (PG-13 for sexuality and violence). Charlize Theron handles the title role in the live-action adaptation of the short-lived, MTV animated series, set in the 25th Century, about an acrobatic assassin out to topple the totalitarian regime oppressing the remnants of a civilization already crumbling from a rampaging virus. With Frances McDormand, Sophie Okonedo, and Marton Csokas.

All the King's Men (not yet rated). Remake of 1949's Academy Award-winning Best Picture, adapted from Robert Penn Warren's Pulitzer Prize-winning best seller based on the life of legendary Louisiana Governor Huey Long. Southern drama chronicles the rise of an idealistic populist who finds himself compromised by the pressures of a corrupt political system. Star-studded cast includes Oscar-winners Sean Penn and Anthony Hopkins, nominees Kate Winslet, Patricia Clarkson, and Jude Law, plus James Gandolfini and Mark Ruffalo.

Capote (R for violence and profanity). Philip Seymour Hoffman handles the title role of this bio-pic about the period in author Truman Capote's life when he was researching the events surrounding the 1959 murders in Kansas which were the subject of his award-winning best seller *In Cold Blood*. Co-starring Catherine Keener as Harper Lee.

Chicken Little (G). Disney puts a new twist on the classic fable in this animated adventure about a young chicken (Zach Braff) who creates a panic after an acorn falls on his head because he believes that the sky is still falling. Distinctive voicework provided by Joan Cusack, Don Knotts, Steve Zahn, Catherine O'Hara, Fred Willard, Harry Shearer, Adam West, Garry Marshall, and Patrick Stewart.

The Chronicles of Narnia (PG for battle sequences and other frightening moments). Disney animated interpretation of the fanciful C.S. Lewis children's novel, set in the English countryside during the Second World War, follows the adventures of four siblings who happen upon a magical, parallel universe where a lion (Liam Neeson) enlists their help to break the spell of an evil witch (Tilda Swinton).

Derailed (R for sex, expletives, and violence). Jennifer Aniston and Clive Owen star in this psychological thriller as philandering commuters in the midst of a passionate affair who find themselves blackmailed by the thug threatening to reveal their secret.

The Fomily Stane (PG-13 for sex and drug use). Christmas comedy about an eligible bachelor (Dermot Mulroney) who brings home his icy fiancée (Sarah Jessica Parker) to meet his parents (Diane Keaton and Craig T. Nelson) and siblings (Rachel McAdams and Luke Wilson) at the family's annual holiday gathering.

Gaad Night, and Gaad Luck (PG for adult themes and brief profanity). George Clooney wrote, directed and co-stars in this fifties docu-drama, shot in black & white, which revisits CBS journalist Edward R. Murrow's (David Strathairn) determination to expose the overzealous efforts of the House Un-American Activities Committee as a witch hunt, despite being called a Communist by Senator Joe McCarthy. With Patricia Clarkson and Jeff Daniels.

Harry Potter and the Gablet of Fire (PG-13 for fantasy violence and frightening images). Rapidly-maturing, principal cast intact, Mike Newell (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*) assumes the helm to direct the fourth installment in the franchise based on J.K. Rowling's series of children's novels. The now 14 year-old boy wizard (Daniel Radcliffe) with a penchant for ending up in dire predicaments finds himself back at Hogwarts where he is chosen to compete in the big tournament against students from a couple of other schools dedicated to the occult.

Just Friends (PG-13 for sex content). Romantic comedy about a lovable loser (Ryan Reynolds) who summons up the courage to tell the girl of his dreams (Amy Smart) his true feelings about her. With Chris Klein, Anna Faris, and Alanis Morissette.

King Kong (PG-13 for frightening images and violence). Oscar-winner Peter Jackson (*The Lord of the Rings*) directs second remake of the 1933 classic about explorers who return from the jungles of Sumatra with an overgrown primate who proceeds to go ape over the beautiful actress (Naomi Watts) who holds the key to soothing his beastly nature. Cast includes Adrien Brody, Jack Black and Colin Hanks.

The Possenger (PG-13 for violence, nudity, and profanity). Re-release of Michelangelo Antonioni's 1975 whodunit starring Jack Nicholson as a war correspondent on assignment to cover an insurrection in North Africa who decides to assume the identity of a dead man who looked like him. With Maria Schneider as the exotic beauty who befriends him.

Pride and Prejudice (PG for mature themes). Tenth adaptation of the Jane Austen classic exploration of late 18th Century British gentility revolves around a meddling mom's (Brenda Blethyn) efforts to marry off her five daughters (Keira Knightley, Jena Malone, Talulah Riley, Rosamund Pike, and Carey Mulligan) to appropriate eligible bachelors, especially the wealthy Mr. Darcy (Matthew MacFadyen). Cast includes Donald Sutherland and Dame Judi Dench.

The Praducers (PG-13 for sexual references). Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick reprise their roles from the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical as a couple of con men who concoct a get-rich-quick scheme to bilk investors by inducing them to back a play certain to flop. Cast includes Will Ferrell, Uma Thurman, Andrea Martin, and Jon Lovitz.

Rent (PG 13 for sex, expletives, and mature themes). Original Broadway cast (with the addition of Rosario Dawson) returns to reprise their roles in screen version of Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning musical. Ostensibly inspired by Puccini's *La Boheme*, update is set over the course of one very eventful year in the lives of a group of Greenwich Village bohemians burdened by a variety of issues.

Shopgirl (R for sex and expletives). Adapting his own novella of the same name, Steve Martin stars in this romantic comedy as a wealthy, worldly-wise older man who finds himself in a love triangle with a Saks Fifth Avenue cashier (Claire Danes) torn between him and a man (Jason Schwartzman) her own age.

The Squid and the Whale (R for sex and expletives). Dysfunctional family drama, set in Brooklyn in 1986, focuses on the emotional fallout visited upon the 12 and 16 year-old sons of an unhappily married couple (Laura Linney and Jeff Daniels) going through a messy divorce.

Syriana (R for violence and profanity). George Clooney heads the ensemble cast in the lead role of this multi-layered, political potboiler, based on *See No Evil*, Robert Baer's memoir of his international derring-do during a 21-year career with the CIA. With Oscar-winners Matt Damon, William Hurt, and Chris Cooper, Amanda Peet, Jeffrey Wright, Tim Blake Nelson and Christopher Plummer.

Walk the Line (PG-13 for profanity, mature themes, and a depiction of drug dependency). Joaquin Phoenix impersonates Johnny Cash, while Reese Witherspoon plays wife June in this life and times bio-pic based on two autobiographies by the late country singer who'd "been everywhere, man" and always dressed in black. Cast includes Tyler Hilton as Elvis Presley, Shooter Jennings as his father, Waylon, Jonathan Rice as Roy Orbison, Waylon Payne as Jerry Lee Lewis, and Johnny Holliday as Carl Perkins.

Yours, Mine, and Ours (PG for crude humor). Dennis Quaid and Renée Russo invoke fond memories of Henry Fonda and Lucille Ball who starred in the original version of this blended family comedy about a widower with 8 kids whose marriage to a widow with 10 urchins of her own turns into a nightmare when they all try to live under one roof.

—Kam Williams

Top Video Rentals

Week of November 26-December 3

Premier Video

1. *Cinderella Man*
2. *24: Season 4*
3. *Ladies in Lavendar*
4. *Murderball*
5. *Polar Express*

Princeton Video

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3. *March of the Penguins*
4. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
5. *Ladies in Lavendar*

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160 Nassau Street
Friday, December 16 — Thursday, December 22
Rent (PG-13): Fri., 9:15; Sat.-Sun., 9:15; Mon.-Thrs., 9:15
Ushpizin (NR): Fri., 5, 7; Sat.-Sun., 1, 3, 5, 7; Mon.-Thrs., 7
Walk the Line (PG-13): Fri., 4:15, 7, 9:45; Sat.-Sun., 1:15, 4, 7, 9:45; Mon.-Thrs., 6:30-9:15

MONTGOMERY CINEMAS, (609) 924-7444
1325 Route 206, Montgomery Shopping Center
Friday, December 16 — Thursday, December 22
Capote (R): Fri.-Sat., 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45; Sun.-Thrs., 2:20, 4:50, 7:20
Good Night, and Good Luck (PG): Fri.-Sat., 2:30, 4:45, 7, 9:15; Sun.-Thrs., 2:30, 4:45, 7
The Passenger (PG-13): Fri.-Sat., 2, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45; Sun.-Thrs., 2, 4:35, 7:10
Pride and Prejudice (PG): Fri.-Sat., 2, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45; Sun.-Thrs., 2, 4:35, 7:10
Shopgirl (R): Fri.-Sat., 2:15, 7:05; Sun.-Thrs., 2:15, 7:05
The Squid and the Whale (R): Fri.-Sat., 4:30, 9:30; Sun.-Thrs., 4:30
Syriana (R): Fri.-Sat., 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30; Sun.-Thrs., 2, 4:30, 7

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Sat & Sun, December 17 & 18: 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45
Mon–Thurs, Dec. 19 - 22: 6:30, 9:15

USHPIZIN (NR) 1:30
Fri, December 16: 5:00, 7:00
Sat & Sun, December 17 & 18: 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00
Mon–Thurs, Dec. 19 - 22: 7:00

RENT (PG-13) 2:15
Fri-Thurs December 16-22: 9:15

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Fri-Sat 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45
Sun-Thurs 2:00, 4:35, 7:10 (PG-13)
SHOPGIRL
Fri-Sat 2:15, 7:05
Sun-Thurs 2:15, 7:05 (R)
CAPOTE
Fri-Sat 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45
Sun-Thurs 2:20, 4:50, 7:20 (R)
GOODNIGHT and GOOD LUCK
Fri-Sat 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15
Sun-Thurs 2:30, 4:45, 7:00 (PG)
The SQUID and the WHALE
Fri-Sat 4:30, 9:30
Sun-Thurs 4:30 (R)

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Sports

With Major Contributions From Owings, Koncz, Tiger Men's Hoops Tops Wyoming to End Skid

Luke Owings was not in the starting lineup for the first time this season last Saturday as the Princeton University men's hoops team hosted Wyoming.

In addition to being benched in favor of sophomore Kyle Koncz, the 6'6 Owings suffered the extra indignity of being moved from small forward to back-up center.

While Owings wasn't happy with the turn of events, the junior from Hyattsville, Md. realized that his game had gone south recently.

"Maybe I just needed not to start," said Owings, acknowledging that he had been in a rut. "If the coach had asked me, I would've told him to bench me."

With his focus renewed by some time on the pine, Owings looked like he had been playing in the high post for years once he made it back onto the court. Driving to the hoop and firing up long jumpers, Owings scored 17 points with two rebounds and three assists in 28 minutes to help spark Princeton to a 59-50 win over the Cowboys before 2,804 at Jadwin Gym.

Koncz, meanwhile, looked comfortable at small forward as he fired in a career-high 18 points to help Princeton snap a three-game losing streak and improve to 2-4.

Afterward, Owings conceded that center might be a good fit for him. "I played center in high school," said Owings. "I had big, slow people coming at me and I was just a little less slower. It's exciting to play center here since so much of our offense runs through the center."

The little-used Koncz, who came into the evening with a career total of 19 points in just 11 appearances over the last two seasons, was excited to get his chance to play a major role.

"I was recruited to be a shooter and for some reason, I lost my confidence shooting the ball and I wasn't looking for my shot," said the 6'7, 200-pound Koncz, who scored more than 1,200 points during his high school career in Strongsville, Ohio.

"The last two weeks of practice all the players and coaches have been telling me to work on my shot, saying 'you're a shooter, so shoot the ball.' When coach told me at Thursday's practice that I was going to start, I was pretty confident."

Koncz's confidence in his shot proved to be a godsend as the Tigers found themselves in trouble after building a 37-22 halftime lead. With the Cowboys finding their shot, they pulled to within 48-47 with 3:34 remaining in the contest. Koncz, though, single-handedly stopped the Wyoming run as he fired in two three-pointers to give Princeton a 54-47 lead.

"I kind of saw the offense in disarray and the shot clock was winding down," said Koncz, recalling the three-pointer he hit to give the Tigers a 51-47 lead. "I think it was Luke who skipped the ball to me. I stepped into it, the guy was off me and I said we're not going to get a better shot than this. It felt good when I shot it."

CENTER STAGE: Princeton junior Luke Owings fights for position last Saturday in the Tigers' 59-50 win over visiting Wyoming. Owings was moved from small forward to back-up center for the game and gave Princeton a spark as he scored 17 points with two rebounds and three assists in 28 minutes.

(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ Sports Action)

BUFFED UP: Princeton junior forward Edwin Buffmire dribbles into traffic last Saturday on his way to seven points in 18 minutes as the Tigers topped Wyoming 59-50 to snap a three-game losing streak. In upcoming action, Princeton, now 2-4, hosts Monmouth on December 14 before playing at nationally-ranked Wake Forest on December 17. *(Photo by Bill Allen/NJSports Action)*

It felt good for Princeton head coach Joe Scott to see his young line-up come through in the clutch. "It was good for us to get to 48-47 and for our guys to win the game," said Scott, whose team came into the night mired in a four-game losing streak at Jadwin stretching back to last season. "Wyoming didn't lose the game. We stopped them and we made shots. That's important for everybody."

It was vitally important for Koncz to step up and give Princeton a spark. "Kyle is constantly saving baskets for us, diving for the ball, doing the little stuff," said Scott. "We've known all along that he can shoot. It's easier to make them when you've gained confidence doing all those other things."

Scott is hoping that Owings regained his confidence through his changed role. "We're just trying to help Luke," said Scott who got good minutes off the bench from junior Edwin Buffmire and sophomore Harrison Schaen with Buffmire scoring seven points and Schaen adding five. "We moved Luke to center and Harrison to forward. It helped Luke seeing the others out there."

In Scott's view, the seeds for the team's win over Wyoming may have been sown in its 60-47 loss to Temple on December 6.

"In the last 18 minutes of the Temple game, I thought we showed some chemistry," maintained Scott. "They are talking to each other, they are pulling for each other. We're growing; we're developing. We started three sophomores and a freshman tonight. I'm glad for them; they made us win the game."

Now Scott is hoping that his team can win some more games as it hosts Monmouth on December 14 before playing at nationally-ranked Wake Forest on December 17.

"This is our second chance to win two games in a row," added Scott, referring to the Monmouth game. "That may sound trivial but to a team this young, we need to see if we can come back and do it again. We have to learn to win."

Owings, for his part, believes that the players are learning to rely on each other. "Chemistry isn't something that happens overnight," asserted Owings. "We've been going through some things. It hasn't been that long into the season and people are already saying we're no good. We look to each other and we play for each other."

—Bill Alden

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Sparked by Berry's Unflappable Play at Guard, Tiger Women's Hoops Gives Rutgers a Scare

Led by their high-scoring All-American guard Capple Pondexter, the Rutgers women's basketball team brought a No. 6 ranking into their game last Sunday at Princeton.

The undefeated Scarlet Knights arrived at Jadwin Gym accompanied by a posse of raucous supporters who turned the visiting stands into a sea of red.

With Princeton having been mired in the bottom half of the Ivy League in recent years, it would've been understandable if the Tigers had been intimidated by their high-powered guests.

But Princeton freshman guard Jessica Berry and her teammates actually relished the chance to duel the Scarlet Knights.

"We as a team had a lot of confidence in ourselves," said Berry in the southern accent of her hometown of Little Rock, Ark. "We thought we were just as good a half court team as they are."

The Tigers exuded confidence from the opening tip-off as sophomore star Meg Cowher made a steal and lay up to put Princeton in the lead. The teams traded buckets for most of the half, triggering grins on the faces of the Tigers and grimaces on the faces of the Scarlet Knights.

With 1:27 left, two Becky Brown free throws gave Princeton a 27-21 lead much to the delight of their supporters in the crowd of 1,311. The Tigers took a 28-26 lead into the half.

After the intermission, Rutgers turned up the defensive heat, Princeton found the going tougher. Still the Tigers built their lead back to six as they went ahead 35-29 with 17:17 left.

The teams were knotted at 45-45 with 8:11 left when Rutgers went on a 9-0 run as Pondexter started dominating the game. Princeton battled back to cut the deficit to 60-56 on a Katy O'Brien three-pointer with 1:48 left.

But Pondexter dropped in a three-point goal in the last minute to run her total to 25 points and seal the win as Rutgers escaped Jadwin with a 65-56 win. The loss left Princeton at 5-3, which is the program's best start in 10 years.

Berry enjoyed her battle with Pondexter. "It was a challenge," said Berry, who played all 40 minutes and scored nine points with five assists and one turnover.

"I've heard her say on ESPN that she is the best guard in the freshman class. For me as a freshman, it is an honor to go against that kind of competition."

In Berry's view, the Tigers showed collectively that they can battle on even terms with the best. "This is a way to measure ourselves against national competition," added Berry.

"We're playing the No. 6 team in the country like this; we think it says something pretty good. We're looking forward to Ivy League play."

Berry is looking forward to running the show from the point when the Tigers head into league play. "I love being the point guard, being able to run the offense and being the coach's captain on the floor," said Berry, who is averaging 10.9 points and 5.0 assists a game so far in her debut season. "Everything they call goes through you so it's an honor for me to be the point guard."

Princeton head coach Richard Barron loves having a competitor like Berry at the point. "She did great," said Barron, when asked about Berry's matchup with Pondexter. "One turnover, five assists and nine points. Capple got her 25, she's the best guard in the country. She made some tough shots; she really elevates on her jump shot."

In Barron's view, his club elevated its play as it put a scare into Rutgers. "We knew we had to play our best game to win," said Barron, who got 14 points and 13 rebounds from Brown and 14 points from Katy O'Brien in the Rutgers game. "We didn't quite give our best game but I thought we were competitive."

Barron acknowledged that Rutgers' defensive pressure knocked Princeton off its game at times. "We settled offensively; we weren't attacking the basket for maybe a four to six minute stretch," said Barron, whose club shot 34.5 percent from the field on the afternoon.

"We didn't quite execute offensively like we needed to from about the 10 minute to four minute stretch. It's easy to get distracted in a game of this magnitude. Of course, one of those distractions was their athleticism."

As Princeton plays out the non-league portion of its schedule, it will look to build on Sunday's effort. "I think this is a good team," asserted Barron, whose club plays at Rider on December 14 and at top-ranked Tennessee on December 17. "They've worked hard. If we can play a tight game with the No. 6 team in the country, we ought to be able to play with anybody other than Tennessee. We're looking forward to the Ivy League."

The key to success in league play will come down to Princeton focusing on what it does well and not worrying about adjusting to the opposition.

"We're going to play the same way no matter who the opponent is," explained Barron, noting that he has pared down scouting reports of opponents so that his team is zeroed in on its style. "We're going to give you our best shot. We do well in practice everyday. If you beat us, you beat us. We're hoping that over the course of the season, there is a lot more consistency."

Berry, for her part, believes that the team's performance against Rutgers was the tip of the iceberg.

"This was a way to show the community the leap we've made," said Berry. "We're looking to turn the program around. I think this year is a really big year. We expect to win now. We can turn it around and after that, we can keep building and building."

With Berry providing a solid foundation at point guard, Princeton appears poised to do some big things this winter.

—Bill Alden

ON POINT: Princeton University freshman point guard Jessica Berry makes a pass in recent action. Last Sunday, Berry scored nine points and had five assists to help the Tigers put a scare into No. 6 Rutgers. Princeton led for much of the game before ultimately failing 65-56. *(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)*

TAKING THE PLUNGE: Princeton University sophomore forward Meg Cowher, left, dives for a ball in the Tigers' recent win over Lehigh. Last Sunday against visiting Rutgers, Cowher hustled her way to 13 points and seven rebounds but it wasn't enough as the Scarlet Knights pulled out a 65-56 win. Princeton, now 5-3, plays at Rider on December 14 and at top-ranked Tennessee on December 17. *(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)*

Sports Fans!

I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW

STURHAHN, DICKENSON & BERNARD

Which player do you guess had the most productive season in terms of total passing yards of any professional quarterback anywhere, ever? Surprisingly, the answer is Doug Flutie, who threw for an incredible 6,619 yards for the British Columbia Lions in 1991. Flutie entered the 2005 season as the oldest position player in the NFL at 42, backing up Tom Brady for New England. Football fans know that Flutie has always had a flair for the dramatic, but even as a fan at baseball games? Well, get this: Flutie attended five Boston Red Sox games in 2005 — and caught four foul balls.

• • •

Sometimes coincidences are almost too hard to believe. Take the case of NHL Hall of Fame player Denis Savard, an all-time great with Montreal. While skating for the Montreal Juniors in 1977, Savard played on a line with Denis Cyr and Denis Tremblay. The fact that the three players were named Denis was coincidence enough, but it turned out that all three also shared the exact same day of birth — Feb. 4, 1961. No wonder they played so well together, racking up more than 400 goals for the Juniors.

• • •

The Nike swoosh seems to be everywhere in the world of sports these days, but where did it come from? The swoosh was designed in 1971 by a graphic design student named Carolyn Davidson, who invoiced the company a mere $35 for her work. Initially, Nike founder Phil Knight didn't fall in love with the design. In fact, he chose it only at the last minute before the company's logo had to be finalized. Knight's infamous words at the time: "I don't love it, but it will grow on me." Talk about an understatement.

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Freshman Star Wilson Providing Some Punch As Tiger Men's Hockey Aims for Consistency

It was the first two-goal game of his college career but Princeton University freshman center Brett Wilson wasn't all that thrilled.

After scoring a power play goal in the first period last Friday against visiting Alabama-Huntsville and then adding another early in the second period, Wilson and his teammates were handcuffed the rest of the game by Charger goalie Scott Munroe.

Alabama-Huntsville, meanwhile, produced four goals, including an empty netter in the waning moments, to pin a disappointing 4-2 setback on the Tigers.

The loss was even more disheartening for Princeton considering that the Tigers held a 50-26 edge in shots, marking the first time in years that Princeton had hit the 50-shot mark.

Standing near the team's bench in Baker Rink afterward, Wilson lamented the Tigers' failure to cash in on their opportunities.

"We want to come out and get shots on net but tonight we saw that we've got to bury our chances," said 6'0, 180-pound Wilson, a native of Calgary, Alberta.

"We got 41 shots in two periods and we shouldn't have just a 2-1 lead going into the third period. We've been losing a lot of games where we've been leading going into the third period. We need to find a way to win those games."

A day later, the Tigers did bury their chances, skating past Alabama-Huntsville 4-0 with Wilson chipping in an assist as Landis Stankievich, Seamus Young, Grant Goeckner-Zoeller, and Brian Carthas each scored goals.

Wilson, who was sidelined early in the season with an ankle injury, now has nine points in nine games as he adjusts to the college level.

"It's a little bit tough," said Wilson, referring to his transition to the college game. "It's been a big adjustment; the players here are a little bit bigger and a little bit faster. I'm coming in and playing with some great players so that makes it a little easier."

Princeton head coach Guy Gadowsky believes that Wilson is going to develop into a great player for the Tigers. "He's been a bright spot for us ever since he got back into the lineup from his injury," said Gadowsky, whose club heads into its holiday break with an overall record of 4-10 and 2-8 in ECAC Hockey League play. "People here at Baker have gotten a little taste of what he can do. He's been very good."

Gadowsky, though, acknowledges that his players are going through some growing pains as they try to achieve some consistency.

"It's a process we are going through," said Gadowsky, who is in his second year guiding the program. "Everybody on this team knows that we're a better hockey team today than we were a year ago. In Division I athletics, it's a fine line between winning and losing. We've made steps to play better but the step from playing well to winning games is one we haven't climbed yet."

Coming up with an effort like Saturday's win may help Princeton take that step. "They say you learn more from losing than winning but at this stage in the process I disagree," said Gadowsky, whose team resumes action on December 30 when it plays at two-time defending national champion Denver. "We need to win to learn what it takes. We're struggling to get that taste."

For Wilson, the taste of Princeton hockey has been sweet even as the team has struggled for results. "It's been a great experience so far," asserted Wilson. "We have a great group of guys and a great coach. The class work is a big commitment, that's for sure. The school is first class, you can't ask for anything more than that. It's real exciting."

And Wilson, like Gadowsky, thinks that more wins are on the horizon. "I think we've had some bad breaks," said Wilson. "We're not getting the bounces we need right now to get over the hump. We have enough guys in here who are working hard enough that I'm sure we'll turn the corner."

—Bill Alden

GOING ALL OUT: Princeton University freshman center Brett Wilson, right, dives for the puck in the Tigers' 4-0 win over Alabama-Huntsville last Saturday. Wilson chipped in an assist in the victory and now has nine points in his first nine games. *(Photo by Bill Allen)*

THE PUCK STOPS HERE: Princeton University senior goaltender Eric Leroux makes one of his 27 saves as the Tigers blanked Alabama-Huntsville 4-0 last Saturday. It was Leroux's fifth career shutout. Princeton, now 4-10 overall and 2-8 in ECAC Hockey League play, is off for the holidays before resuming play on December 30 at two-time defending national champion Denver. *(Photo by Bill Allen)*

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Senior Star McCareins Named as All American

Princeton senior defensive back Jay McCareins capped his stellar senior season last week by being named as a first-team selection on the 2005 Walter Camp Football Foundation Division I-AA All-America team.

McCareins was the driving force behind the Princeton football team's 7-3 record and second-place finish in the Ivy League as he led the nation in interceptions and scored four touchdowns on return plays.

The 6'0, 180-pound native of Naperville, Ill. is Princeton's second first-team All-America selection this century, following Taylor Northrop's selection in 2001. He is the first non-kicker to make the All-America first team since running back Keith Elias made it in 1993. Linebacker Zak Keasey, now a member of the Washington Redskins, was a second-team selection last season.

Behncke, Matheson Earn All-Region Recognition

Princeton University women's soccer stars Emily Behncke and Diana Matheson were named second-team All-Mid-Atlantic by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Thirty-three players were honored from the Mid-Atlantic region, which covers from Pennsylvania and New Jersey south to Virginia and West Virginia. Coaches in the region voted on the awards, and Behncke and Matheson were the only players between the region's two Ivy League schools and in the state of New Jersey as well to be honored.

It is the third straight NSCAA second-team honor for Behncke, a senior, who finishes her career as the third-leading goal scorer (39) and point scorer (90) in Princeton history. This season, Behncke had 14 goals, five more than anyone else in the Ivy League and second-most all-time in Princeton history. Her 0.88 goals per game average ranked 14th in the nation. She was named as the Ivy League Player of the Year.

Sophomore midfielder Matheson was the team's second-leading scorer this season with five goals, including three game-winners, and seven assists. Both Matheson and Behncke were also unanimous first-team all-league selections, the only two unanimous choices in the conference. It is the second NSCAA all-region award for Matheson, who was on the first team last season.

Tiger Men's Squash Takes 2nd in 5-Man

Led by its freshman standouts, the Princeton University men's squash team took second at the National 5-Man Championships last weekend in New Haven, Conn.

The Tigers fell 3-2 to the Connecticut Professional team in the championship match. Freshman stars Mauricio Sanchez, Kimlee Wong, and Hesham El Halaby all played strongly as the Tigers narrowly missed claiming their first five-man championship since 2002.

Tiger Track Teams Excel at Invitational

The Princeton University track teams produced some fine performances last Saturday as they opened their indoor season by hosting the Princeton Invitational.

The Tiger men took three events with Raymond Lenihan winning the 60-meter hurdles, Kurt Kuehne taking first in the 1,000 meters, and James O'Toole prevailing in the 3,000.

On the women's side, Princeton posted four victories as Laura Landry won the 500 meters, Heather Iaturo took first in the 1000 and Jessica Kloss won the pole vault. The Tiger women also took first in the 4 x 800 relay.

Princeton Wrestling Edged At F & M

Unable to hold a 14-12 lead with two matches remaining, the Princeton University wrestling team fell 20-14 at Franklin & Marshall last Wednesday in its EIWA opener.

Tiger senior star Jake Butler, who earned an invitation to the NCAA championships last year, produced another strong performance as he opened the night with a 15-0 technical fall against Nico Somers at 197 pounds in the first match of the contest.

Other Princeton winners included Eric Marcotulli at 141, Andrew Iannuzzi at 149, and Marty Everin at 165.

Princeton, which fell to 4-1 with the loss, is next in action when it competes at the Beast of the East Tournament this weekend in Dover, Del.

BROILED SALMON: Princeton University sophomore forward Brittany Salmon, right, glides up ice in the Tigers' 2-1 win over visiting Quinnipiac on December 6. Last weekend, the Tigers beat Wayne State 5-2 on Friday and then skated to a 2-2 tie with the Warriors a day later. Princeton, now 9-3-3, heads into the holiday break riding a six-game unbeaten streak. The Tigers resume play when they host Providence on January 2.

(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)

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Developing Confidence and Togetherness, PHS Boys' Basketball Looks to Turn Corner

It was not an overnight process as the Princeton High football team transformed itself from a doormat into a winning program.

Over the last few years, the Little Tigers took some lumps but they kept their nose to the grindstone and gradually grew into a force to be reckoned with.

PHS boys' basketball coach Dave Kosa is looking to apply that same formula as he enters season four of his effort to rebuild the hoops program.

"In my first year we had a lot of double-digit losses; last year there were a lot of close games," said Kosa. "We were looking to get to the point where we were competitive and we've done that. Now we're looking to win some of those close games."

Playing in the Allentown league this summer, PHS showed some definite progress in developing a knack for winning. "We did enjoy success in the summer league; we went 10-1," recalled Kosa. "The hard work and commitment are starting to pay off. The team has more confidence and togetherness."

Kosa will be relying on two stalwarts of the football team, Ben Guervil and Marc Andre, to help his club turn the corner. "Ben played the first half of last season and Marc played the second half," said Kosa, whose club went 4-19 last winter.

"It's good to have them playing at the same time. They are both pounding the boards. They are both strong inside forces but they are also athletic so we don't want to limit them. Ben will probably be our go-to guy offensively; he developed into that last year."

PHS also figures to get some good work in the frontcourt from seniors Casey Huckel and Matt Welsh. "Casey will be playing small forward for us," added Kosa, who will also be using seniors Dan Mawn and Kyle Wright up front. "He has elevated his game and can hit three-pointers for us. Matt started for us last year and he's going to be coming off the bench. He should give us a spark."

The football team, though, has hurt the PHS backcourt as star senior guard Anthony Brown broke his leg this fall while playing defensive back for the Little Tigers and is likely to be sidelined until January.

As a result, Kosa is looking for senior Clinton Winder, juniors Ross MacDonald, Will Rogers, and football star Alexz Henriques together with sophomore Joe Rogers to pick up the slack in the backcourt.

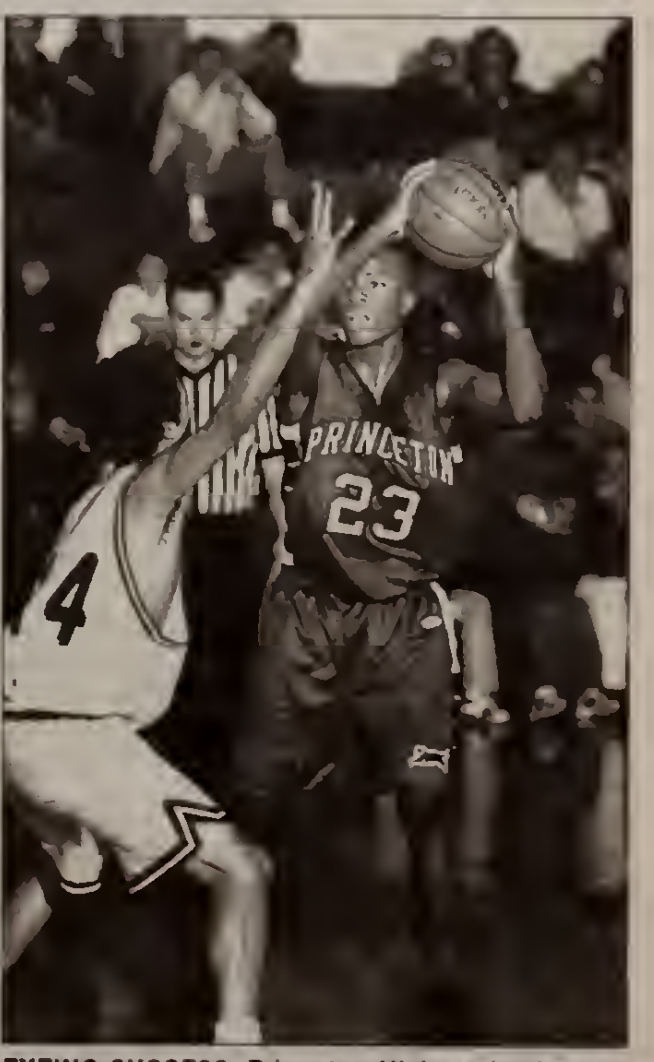
"Not having Anthony at the start is going to hurt," acknowledged Kosa. "Joe, Will, and Clinton should share some time at point guard. Ross has been a pleasant surprise, he has really been hitting his outside shot. Alex is a speed demon, he can push it up the court with the best. He has beaten presses one-on-five."

PHS needs its guards to rise to the occasion in a hurry. "We've been turning the ball over in our half-court offense in scrimmages and we need to work on that," said Kosa, whose club tips off the 2005-06 season by playing at Hamilton on December 16 before hosting Trenton on December 20. "We also have to make good decisions with the ball when we are pushing it up the court."

Patience will be a key to success this winter for the Little Tigers. "We're going to look to keep scores low so we'll have a better chance of winning," maintained Kosa. "We need to hit the offense boards to keep possession. We need to pound the boards on defense to limit the other teams to one shot. We will pick our spots when to run."

If PHS can stay the course, it might find itself in some good spots this winter.

—Bill Alden



EYEING SUCCESS: Princeton High senior forward Ben Guervil looks for an opening in action last winter. PHS is depending on Guervil to be a force inside as it opens its 2005-06 season by playing at Hamilton on December 16. *(Photo by Bill Alden/U.S. SportsAction)*

After Making Large Strides Last Season, PHS Girls' Hoops Aiming for State Berth

Last winter, the Princeton High girls' basketball team didn't waste any time showing that it was going to be competitive as it won its first three games.

While PHS cooled off after that sizzling first week, the Little Tigers did go on to finish with a 9-15 mark, thereby tripling the number of wins posted in the 2003-04 campaign.

Looking ahead to the upcoming season which tips off with a home game against Hamilton this Friday, PHS head coach Nikki Inzano senses a new confidence in her players.

"We're definitely building on that," said Inzano, who is in her third year guiding the Little Tiger program. "I heard the girls say at practice that they want to make the states."

If the Little Tigers are to achieve that lofty goal, which they missed by one win last season, they will need another big season from senior sharpshooter Erin Cook.

In 2004-05, Cook averaged averaged 16 points and nearly 10 rebounds a game, leading CVC in three-point field goals. "Erin is looking really good," said Inzano. "She is working a lot on driving to the basket."

Another key performer for PHS figures to be the athletic and versatile junior Kelly Curtis."I'm going to play Kelly everywhere," said Inzano with a laugh. "We'll start her at small forward but she'll also see time at shooting guard and at point guard."

The starting point guard will be junior Amanda Santamaria, whom Inzano expects to trigger the PHS offense. "Amanda has the ability to score which will surprise some teams," said Inzano, who will also use sophomore transfer Mary McNutt together with freshmen Rachel Basle, Casey Moran, and Carly Edgcomb at guard. "She has court awareness which is a key thing for a point guard."

PHS is hoping that juniors Stephanie Grubb and Liana Dorman can provide a consistent Inside presence. "Stephanie has a lot of experience; we're looking for her in the post," added Inzano, who will also use 5'10 junior Rebecca Shaffer in the frontcourt. "Liana has been strong so far."

Inzano acknowledges that the style of PHS' play will be dictated by her surplus of backcourt performers. "We're going to play up tempo," asserted Inzano. "We have a lot of guards; we're going to press more."

The coach is putting some pressure on her players to get the most out of their potential. "I always have high expectations," said Inzano, a star point guard in her college days at Temple. "I keep challenging them everyday to do something different. I feel the returning players are solid; they've played together for three years, Our freshmen have played together in AAU ball and that's a help."

The Hamilton game should be a fair barometer of how far the Little Tigers might go this winter.

"That's a good test," said Inzano. "They have a new coach and they lost some of their stars to graduation. It's a good contest for us to see where we are at."

If PHS can get off to a hot start this winter, it might be a while before it cools off.

—Bill Alden

SHOOTING STAR: Princeton High star Erin Cook prepares to shoot a free throw in action last season. Cook emerged as one of the top players in the area last winter, averaging 16 points and nearly 10 rebounds a game while leading the CVC in three-point field goals. PHS will be relying on more of the same from senior guard Cook as it opens its 2005-06 season by hosting Hamilton on December 16. *(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)*

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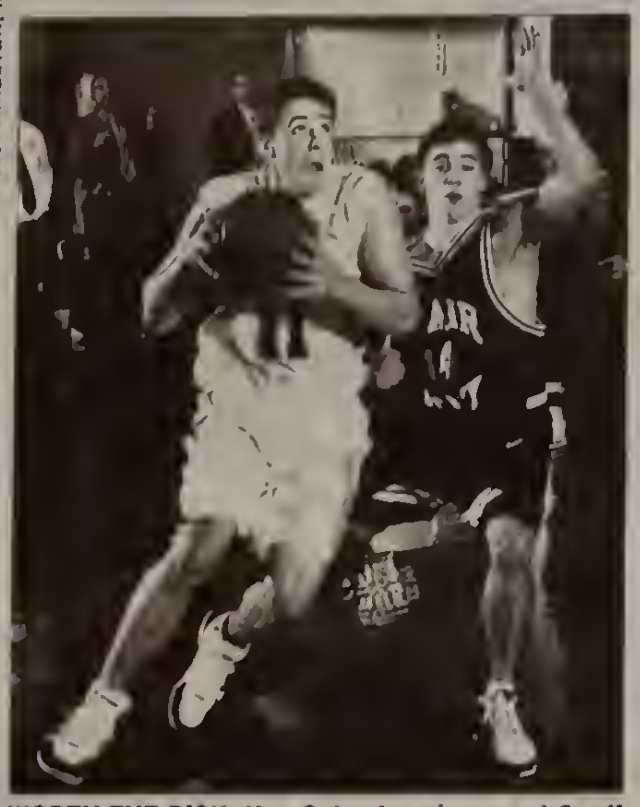
Junior Star Hilliard Assumes Leading Role As Hun Boys' Hoops Off to a Solid Start

As has been the case in the past few years, the Hun School boys' basketball team will look to a core of battle-hardened seniors and post-graduate stars to guide it through its tough schedule.

But this winter, it is a junior, star forward Idris Hilliard, who figures to be the Raiders' main man.

Coming off a banner sophomore year that saw him emerge as Hun's top scoring threat, Hilliard is looking to be the team's catalyst this season.

"I got a lot of confidence from last season and how I did last summer with my AAU team," said Hilliard, the team's co-captain along with post-grad Chris Petrie. "I feel that coming back this year, I should be a leader. If I start things off, everyone else will pick it up."



WORTH THE RISK: Hun School senior guard Geoff Rizk barrels to the basket in Hun's 43-39 win over Blair last Wednesday. Hun, now 3-1 on the season, hosts Trinity Pawling on December 15 and Life Center Academy on December 17 before facing Paramus in the Tip-Off Classic on December 18. *(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)*

Last weekend, Hilliard starred as the Raiders went 1-1 at the Peddie School Invitational Tournament (PSIT). Hilliard scored 16 points to lead Hun to a 62-34 win over Brunswick in the opening round of the PSIT. Hun fell 51-46 to Solebury in the PSIT semis but Hilliard was named to the All-Tournament team.

In preparing for this season, Hilliard put in a lot of time diversifying his game so that he'll be more than just a force in the paint.

"We have this thing called the gun that fires balls at us so we can practice shooting jumpers; I have spent a lot of time on that," said Hilliard, who scored a team-high 15 points last Wednesday as Hun nipped Blair Academy 43-39 in a key early-season Mid-Atlantic Prep League (MAPL) contest. "In pick-up games, I would make myself never post up so I could work on my shooting and dribbling. I think that's really helped me a lot."

While Hilliard has toiled to improve his individual skills, he is more focused on helping the team foster a winning chemistry.

"With everybody living here, it's so much easier," said Hilliard. "It's pretty much like family, I see the guys more than I see my family. We eat together; we live together; we go to classes together. That helps us play as a team."

Hun head coach Jon Stone believes that Hilliard's dominant presence inside opens things up for his whole team.

"He certainly commands a lot of attention out there," said Stone. "He gets double and triple-teamed. Its good it gives our other guys a little more freedom and openness."

Stone is looking for his other guys to make solid contributions. "You always like to get your guys more minutes; I think our guys have responded," said Stone, who got 11 points from senior guard Geoff Rizk in the win over Blair. "We have a deep bench; we have a lot of guys who can play."

While Hun is off to a solid start, Stone acknowledges that the team is still a work in progress "I think we're still growing and still learning," asserted Stone, whose 3-1 club hosts Trinity Pawling on December 15 and Life Center Academy on December 17 before facing Paramus in the Tip-Off Classic on December 18.

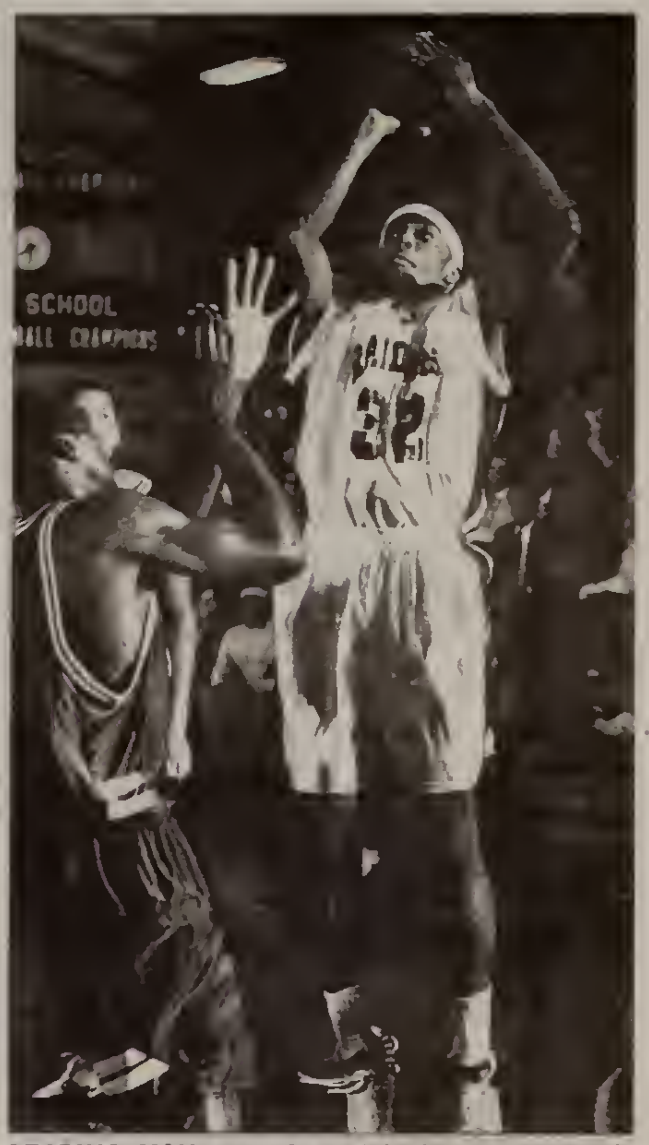
"We're not sure what the face of this team necessarily is. We've done some good things at times. I think we've got to play hard all the time and hopefully that's going to be the mark of this team."

Hilliard, for his part, believes the team will be known for the way it works hard together.

"Everybody seems like they are unselfish; sometimes PGs come in and they're used to being the man on their teams," maintained Hilliard.

"We don't have that with Chris and Josh; they're ready to pass and do what the coach tells them. We have Lance [Goulbourne] who could probably start for other teams but doesn't mind coming off the bench. Our team is real strong."

—Bill Alden



LEADING MAN: Hun School junior forward Idris Hilliard lofts a jump shot on his way to a team-high 15 points in Hun's 43-39 win over Blair last Wednesday. Last weekend, Hun fell 51-46 to Solebury in the semifinals of the Peddie School Invitational Tournament (PSIT) but Hilliard earned All-Tournament recognition for his strong play. *(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)*

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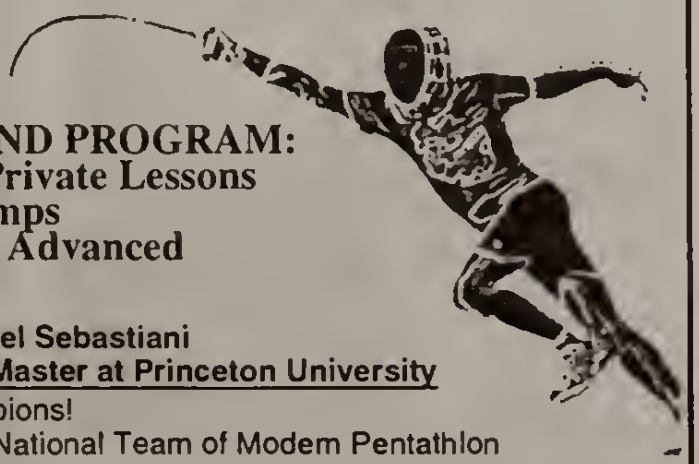

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Mickens Fires in Buzzer Beater in OT As PDS Boys' Hoops Opens on a High

It was the first game of Jordan Mickens' sophomore season with the Princeton Day School boys' basketball team but he knew he had to play like a senior.

PDS hit their home court last Thursday for the season opener against Pennington missing top scorer Drew Godwin due to an ankle injury and starting center Zach Schechtel, who was out with the flu.

With the Panthers trailing for most of the game, Mickens hit a big three-pointer with seconds left in the fourth quarter to force overtime.

Then with PDS down by one and seconds remaining in the extra session, Mickens raced up the court and lofted a heave that banked in as the buzzer sounded to give the Panthers a dramatic 45-43 triumph.

After a wild post-game celebration that saw Mickens get mobbed by his teammates, the lanky sophomore maintained that he was ready to assume more offensive responsibility in the absence of Godwin.

"I've got a lot more confidence than I did last year," said Mickens, who ended the evening with a game-high 20 points. "With Drew out, I knew I had to step up. We have a lot of character on this team. We picked it up."

In Mickens' view, it was the team's defensive effort in the second half that paved the way for the win. "We knew we had to play great defense," said Mickens. "We were playing a matchup defense in the first half and then we changed everything and went to a man-to-man defense. We did a great job. We wanted it more in the fourth quarter than they did."

On that last sequence in overtime, Mickens made it clear that he wanted the ball. "I said to Andrew [Davidson] let me have the ball," recalled a beaming Mickens. "I was feeling it. I looked at the clock ticking down and I dribbled the ball and I just pulled up and took it."

Mickens' willingness to take that shot is a reflection of the regimen he put himself through this past summer.

"I worked a lot this summer," said Mickens. Drew and I both went to the 5-Star camp and we both played AAU. I was in the gym shooting everyday this summer. I gained about 15 pounds from weightlifting and I've grown two inches. I can handle myself a lot better than last year."

New PDS head coach Kyle Zosulis was proud of how his team handled itself in delivering him a debut win he won't soon forget.

"I talked to them in the pregame about adversity," said a grinning Zosulis, who got nine points from Armando Davis and eight points from Andrew Dowdle.

"I told them that a lot of them are going to play and play in different spots. It ages you. We're trying to build a program here at PDS. You have your first game with a good home crowd against a rival and you throw a buzzer beater in; it's amazing."

Mickens' efforts, though, didn't surprise Zosulis. "He had a great shot to win the game," said Zosulis. "I didn't even think he was going to get that shot off, it was unbelievable. But Jordan can do more; he has to step up and be even more assertive."

PDS got some assertive play from sophomore C.J. Martino down low and from classmate Davis at the point. "C.J. is young but he has the heart of a lion," asserted Zosulis, who hopes to have Godwin back in early January.

"He does the grunt work, he had nine boards for us tonight. Armando showed some nerves early on but he took control as our point guard. He's got a motor that doesn't stop on defense. He took their No. 22 [Mike Millstein] who is a heckuva shooter and he stuck with him in the second half. He's our defensive stopper and he's got to be at the No. 1."

Zosulis is hoping that win No. 1 will be a harbinger of good things to come for the Panthers. "I think the kids are believing," asserted Zosulis, whose team fell 49-38 to George last Monday and will host Ranney on December 15 and Moorestown High on December 17. "They are working hard. It's good to open at home and open with a win. It wasn't pretty at times but good teams find a way to win."

Mickens, for his part, believes that the Panthers' resolve should hold them in good stead as the season unfolds.

"We came back from adversity," said Mickens, who hit four three-pointers in the win over Pennington. "We got up, we got down but we still made the shot to win the game. That kind of momentum is great."

—Bill Alden

UPLIFTING START: Princeton Day School senior co-captain Andrew Davidson goes to the hoop in a recent practice session. Last Thursday, Davidson contributed two points and some key rebounds as PDS came from behind to nip Pennington 45-43 in overtime in the season opener for both teams. The Panthers, who fell 49-38 to George last Monday, will host Ranney on December 15 and Moorestown High on December 17. *(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)*

Boasting Its Deepest Team in Years, PDS Boys' Hockey Off to a 2-0 Start

Last Thursday, the Princeton Day School boys' ice hockey team found itself clinging to a 1-0 lead with visiting Downingtown East after two periods.

The Panthers, though, finished with a rush, scoring four goals in the last period to earn a 5-0 win and improve to 2-0 on the season.

In the view of PDS head coach Chris Barcless, late surges should be a staple this season for the Panthers. "We're not as talented as in the past but we're a lot deeper," said Barcless, who got two goals from Eric Sydlo and one apiece from Eric Czapka and Jon Siani in the decisive third period last Thursday.

"It's a nice change having more bodies. Being able to play more people, we have more legs and energy and should have more gas in the tank in the third period."

While Barcless has scraped by with around 15 players in recent seasons, he is pleased to have the chance to utilize the resources at his disposal this winter.

"We have four lines and six defensemen this season," explained Barcless, who is in his ninth season guiding the Panther program. "We've never had 20 guys before. We've usually had about seven forwards and three defensemen. Having more players makes for a better situation."

With PDS having won seven straight state Prep titles before coming in second last season, there is definitely some first-class talent on hand.

"Our goalie, Jared Tepper, is the same as last year so that's good," said Barcless, whose goalie Tepper recorded eight saves in the win over Downingtown East. "Our top line of Derek Mayer, Justin Mimmo, and Eric Czapka looks to be OK right now."

With the team's blend of talent and depth, Barcless is hoping to finish on a higher note than last winter. "We're optimistic right now that we can compete and battle hard," said Barcless, whose club hosts St. Augustine on December 14 before heading up to New England this weekend to play in the Barber Tournament. "We should be able to use everybody and everybody should be able to contribute."

—Bill Alden

CREASE CONTROL: Princeton Day School goaltender Jared Tepper makes a save in recent action. With Tepper coming up big in goal, the Panthers are off to a 2-0 start. In upcoming action, PDS hosts St. Augustine on December 14 before heading up to New England this weekend to play in the Barber Tournament. *(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)*

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HEAVY TRAFFIC: Stuart senior star Kathryn Kitts, center, struggles to find an opening in the Tartans' 55-28 loss to Blair Academy last Wednesday. Kitts had nine points last Saturday but it wasn't enough as Stuart fell 59-28 to Rutgers Prep. The Tartans, now 1-3, are idle until they host Rutgers Prep on January 4. *(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)*

HUN

Girls' Basketball: Displaying a balanced attack, Hun pulled out a 49-43 win at Episcopal Academy last Saturday. Amanda Sepulveda scored 14 points to lead the Raiders with Mary Stinson chipping in 12 and Emily Gratch adding 10. The Raiders, now 4-0, compete in the Blair Academy Tournament on December 16-17.

Boys' Ice Hockey: Led by post-graduate star Andrew Ashenfelter, Hun rolled to a 9-0 win over Pennington last Monday. Ashenfelter scored three goals and added an assist while Brendan Gallagher chipped in two goals. Travis Potts recorded 18 saves as Hun improved to 2-2 on the season. In upcoming action, the Raiders host Montgomery on December 15 before hosting its Hun Invitational Tournament on December 17-18.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Boys' Basketball: Porter Braswell and Torin Moore both had big games as Lawrenceville topped Brunswick 80-54 last Saturday in a consolation game at the Peddie School Invitational Tournament. Braswell and Moore both scored 17 points as the Big Red improved to 3-1 on the season. In upcoming action, Lawrenceville competes in the New York Boys Club Tournament from December 15-17.

Girls' Hockey: Led by Alyse Ruff and Payson Sword, Lawrenceville cruised past Hill 8-0 last Saturday. Ruff tallied three goals and an assist while Sword, a Princeton resident, added two goals and an assist. The Big Red, now 2-1, will play in the Taft School Tournament from December 14-16.

PDS

Girls' Basketball: Ashley Chappo led the way as PDS topped Purnell 31-20 last Monday to earn its first win of the season. Chappo poured in 15 points with Emily Waters adding eight. The Panthers, now 1-2, host Academy of New Church on December 14 and Springside on December 16.

PHS

Boys' Ice Hockey: John Ryan came up big again as sizzling PHS routed Hamilton 11-1 last Monday. Ryan scored four goals and had two assists as the Little Tigers improved to 4-0 and gave head coach Paul Merrow the 100th victory of his PHS tenure. The Little Tigers play at Bayonne on December 16 before hosting Manasquan on December 19.

Swimming: The PHS swimming teams got off to a big start last week at Steinert. The boys' squad cruised to a 117-53 win as James Beslity won the 200-yard individual medley and the 100 backstroke while Joe Carroll took first in both the 200 and 500 freestyle events. The Little Tiger girls posted a 116-54 win with Kathleen Morrison taking first in the 200 free and the 100 back while Nina Rossi won the 200 IM and the 100 butterfly.

Wrestling: The PHS squad, coached by Rashone Johnson, kicks off the 2005-06 season by hosting its annual Garden State Classic this Saturday.

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GEORGIA PEACH : Princeton Day School freshman star Georgia Travers, left, digs out the puck in recent action. Last Wednesday, Travers had an assist as PDS skated to a 3-3 tie with Hill. PDS, which moved to 2-0-1 with the tie, plays in the Canterbury Tournament on December 16-17.

(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)

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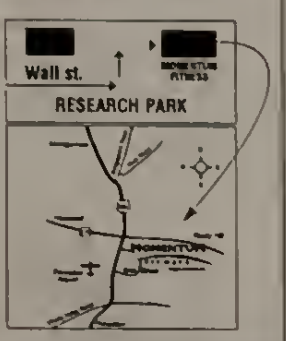

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LOCAL SPORTS

Dillon Youth Basketball December 10 Results

In action last Saturday in the boys' 4th/5th grade division of the Dillon Youth Basketball League, Jeremy Goldsmith scored 20 points to lead the Magic to a 36-20 win over the Bobcats. Mark O'Connell added six points in the win while Brandon Yi paced the Bobcats with 10 points. Lior Levy scored 12 points and Asaf Davidof added 10 as the Heat topped the Knicks. Scott Bechler scored six points and Gabriel Sashihara added four as the Nets topped the Bulls 17-15. The 76ers topped the Raptors 20-9 as Grant Schaefer and Michael Dunlap led the way with six points apiece. Terence Sodbinow scored four points and Michael Farrell added three as the Celtics topped the Wizards 11-10.

The boys' 6th/7th grade division saw Princeton Pettoranello Foundation top McCaffrey's 20-9 as Cameron Farmer and Chris Jackson scored six points apiece. Bobby Doll scored 12 points and Owen Diver added 10 as Iano's Rosticerria topped Momentum Fitness 32-16. Ershow Chiropractic topped Caliper Farms Nursery 23-19 as Mickey Walsh and Clay Alter scored eight points apiece in the win while Brendan Byrne led Caliper with 11 points. Colin Markison scored 10 points to lead the way as GR Murray Insurance topped Sportsmedicine of Princeton 27-12. Luke Cordonnier scored seven points and Jason Perlman added six as Princeton Amoco topped American Sewing & Vacuum Center 20-10.

In games in the boys' 8th/9th grade division James Dwyer scored seven points and Trevor Barsamian added five as the Raiders routed the Tigers 25-6. Andrew Greenbaum netted eight points to help the Cougars edge the Knights 32-23. Thatcher Foster scored a game-high 12 points as the Pirates nipped the Vikings 23-19.

In games in the girls' 4th/5th grade division, Princeton Dental Group defeated Momentum Fitness 20-12 behind 10 points from Arielle Thomas. Tull's Terrors topped Princeton Youth Sports 8-2 as Madison Cahill-Sanidas, Madison Klein, Kate Kerr and Heloise DeBaun each scored two points.

The girls' 6th-9th grade division saw Dr. von der Schmidt rout Mack Cali Realty 32-8 as Kim Abrams scored 16 points and Katelyn Bechler added 14. Blawenberg Market topped Woodwinds 17-5 as Meg Reilly led the way with nine points.

IN THE FAST LANE: Scott Bechler, left, of the Princeton Recreation Department's Under-11 Boys' travel team drives past a WW-P defender in recent action. In Central Jersey league action at John Witherspoon Middle School last weekend, the U-11 squad lost 38-13 to Upper Makefield as Elliot Golden scored 4 points in a losing cause. (Photo by David Goldsmith)

Princeton Little League Offering Winter Clinics

The Princeton Little league will be offering winter baseball clinics again this year.

The clinics are available to children who were members of the Princeton Little League in the 2005 season. The program will run from December 16 through January 29. The clinics will take place at the Princeton University indoor baseball complex in Jadwin Gym and will be conducted by Princeton University coaches and players at a ratio of one coach to five children.

For more information, visit the Princeton Little League web site at www.princetonlittleleague.com.

Princeton Travel Basketball Recent Results

The Princeton Recreation Department's Under-14 boys' travel basketball team stayed unbeaten with two wins over the weekend. Princeton came from behind to defeat Woodbridge 43-40 on a buzzer-beating three pointer from Devon Holman. Skye Ettin paced Princeton with 13 points while Seth Sherman added eight points and six steals. In Central Jersey League action, Princeton trounced Washington 60-23. Ettin led the way with 18 points while Josh Gordon added eight points and five steals.

The Princeton U-13 girls' team defeated Montgomery 35-22 in Flemington League action. Molly Barber and Talya Nakash scored 10 points each to pace Princeton. Jessie Frieder contributed 12 rebounds in the win. The squad is now 1-1 in Flemington League play and 3-2 overall.

The Princeton U-12 boys lost to Woodbridge 64-33 in North Brunswick League action. Jonathan Ostroff scored 14 points and Matt Hoffman had 11 in a losing cause for Princeton.

The Princeton U-12 girls' squad fell to Montgomery 46-14 in North Brunswick League action. Annie Morris led Princeton with eight points.

Patriots Travel Baseball Seeking Additional Players

The Princeton Patriots Baseball Team is seeking additional players for its spring 2006 program.

Individuals ages 12 and under are eligible to apply. The team will have a home field in Princeton and play in several local competitive leagues. For more information, contact Paul Horan at (609) 921-5257 or paul.horan@sun.com.

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OPPOSING PERFECTION FOR A CAUSE: A band from Princeton High School, Opposing Perfection, was one of five groups from area schools performing at a "Battle of the Bands" hurricane relief concert last Saturday at the Suzanne Patterson Center. *(Photo by E.J. Greenblat)*

RECOGNIZED FOR LEADERSHIP: Joe and Ruth Fath of Princeton were honored recently by the Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Mercer County for their leadership and dedication to the Jewish Community and to the Jewish Family and Children's Service.

CLUBS

The Newcomers Club at the YWCA Princeton will meet on Friday, January 13 at 11:45 a.m., in the YWCA all purpose room. The guest speaker will be Kristina Haugland, Associate Curator of Costume and Textiles at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Her slide presentation, *Revealing Garments: A Brief History of Women's Underwear and the Fashionable Ideal*, will use information from works of art, advertisements, cartoons, and literary sources to illuminate the power of fashion.

The Newcomers Club gives those new to the area a way to make friends and get acquainted with their new surroundings. The club offers a variety of interest groups which meet at varying times during the month, including Princeton History, Bridge Club, Babysitting Co-op, Book Talk, Golf, Hiking, Couples' Dining Out, and Scrapbooking.

The club's general meeting is held every second Friday of the month and includes lunch for a nominal fee. Babes in arms are welcome. A social coffee is held every third Thursday morning at the YWCA's Bramwell House at 9:30 a.m.

Membership is not limited to residents of Princeton, but includes all surrounding townships. The YWCA is located at 59 Paul Robeson Place. For more information, call Louise Senior at (609) 688-8847.

The **Professional and Business Singles Network** will sponsor a New Year's Eve Celebration and Dance Party at the Best Western New Hope in New Hope, Pa. on Saturday, December 31 from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Attire will be dressy, with no jeans or sneakers permitted.

Admission will be $45. The event will feature hats and noisemakers, a midnight toast, and Continental breakfast. All singles are welcome; membership is not required.

For more information call (888) 348-5544 or visit www.PBSNinfo.com.

The **Women's College Club of Princeton** is planning a trip to the Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers University in New Brunswick on January 12. A docent-led tour will cover some of the museum's permanent collections and special exhibits such as *Origins of the 20th Century: Watercolors and Drawings in France, 1875-1915* and *A Witness to War: Edward Steichen's U.S. Navy Photography, 1942-1945*. Original illustrations for children's books from the Rutgers Collection will also be on view.

The cost for admission to the museum is $5 per person. The group will car pool to New Brunswick from the parking lot entrance to Eckerd Drugs in the Princeton Shopping Center at 10 a.m. After the museum tour they will have lunch in downtown New Brunswick.

For more information or to reserve a place for the trip, call (609) 921-8575.

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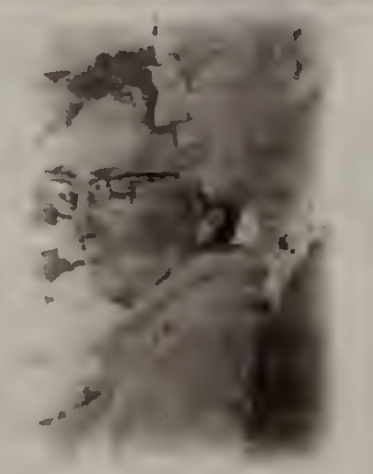
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OBITUARIES

Thomas A. Tonkovich

Thomas A. Tonkovich, 61, of Princeton, died December 11 at the University Medical Center at Princeton following a lengthy illness.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., he had lived in Princeton for the past 13 years.

He was a vice president at Merrill Lynch in New York City.

He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Emma; a brother, Gene of New Canaan, Conn.; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. tomorrow, December 15 at St. Paul's Church, 214 Nassau Street. Burial will be private.

Calling hours will be 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. today, December 14 at The Kimble Funeral Home, 1 Hamilton Avenue.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, for Esophageal Cancer Research, 3076 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville 08648.

Naomi Savage

Naomi Savage, 78, of Princeton, died November 22 at home.

Born Naomi Siegler in Jersey City, she attended Bennington College, studying art and music. She left college prior to graduation to study photography with her uncle, a noted photographer then living in California. Her work became recognized with exhibits at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the George Eastman House in Rochester, and the New Jersey State Museum, among other museums and galleries. Perhaps her most prominent works are the metal photo engravings dominating the walls of the LBJ Library in Austin,Texas.

Predeceased by her husband, David, a son, Michael, and a sister, Elaine Taswell, she is survived by a daughter, Lourie Bates; and two grandsons.

Funeral arrangements were private and under the direction of The Kimble Funeral Home,

A memorial service is being planned for a later date. For information, visit www.kimblefh.com.

George J. Willis Jr.

George J. Willis Jr., 71, of Princeton, died December 6 at home.

A native of Princeton, he was a graduate of Princeton High School, Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., and The General Theological Seminary in New York City.

In 1960 he was ordained a priest by the Bishop of New Jersey. He served as an assistant minister at Grace Church in Plainfield, Calvary Church in New York City, and St. George's-by-the River in Rumson. For three years he was Rector of St. Mark's Church, Newark, and for 23 years Rector of St. George's-by-the River.

During his ministry, he served on many diocesan committees. For nine years he was chair of the Commission on Ministry and was elected twice to the Standing Committee of the Diocese.

Son of the late George and Edith Willis, lifelong residents of Princeton, he is survived by a sister, Anne Willis Gallagher of Harwich, Mass.

The funeral service was December 10 at Trinity Church.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Belshaw Theological Fund, 808 West State Street, Trenton 08618-5326.

Arrangements were under the direction of The Mather-Hodge Funeral Home.

Dorothy Oppenheim

Dorothy Oppenheim, 84, of Princeton, died December 3 in Philadelphia, of cardiac arrest.

She was a frequent lecturer on many subjects at the Present Day Club, and was known for her beautiful singing voice. She also collected and sold antiques and jewelry.

She is survived by her husband, Leonard Oppenheim; a son, Smoky Black of Chicago; and two granddaughters.

Caroline Gianantonio

Caroline Gianantonio, of Princeton, died on her 95th birthday, December 8, at Merwick Rehab Hospital and Skilled Nursing Center.

Born in Pettoranello, Italy, she had lived in Princeton since 1925.

A talented seamstress, she worked at Douglas McDaid Clothing Company on Nassau Street, and later on her own.

With her late husband, John Gianantonio, she was a co-owner for many years of The Annex Restaurant on Nassau Street.

She is survived by a cousin and many nieces and nephews.

The funeral was December 12 at The Kimble Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at at St. Paul's Church. Interment followed in St. Paul's Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Home Care Ministry of St. Paul's Parish, 214 Nassau Street, Princeton 08542; or to the Hospice Memorial Fund, 208 Bunn Drive, Princeton 08540.

Margaret A. Mason

Margaret Arms Mason, 96, of New York City, formerly of Princeton, died November 7 in New York.

Born in Portland, Ore., she was the daughter of Dr. George W. Arms Jr., Princeton University '04 and Princeton Theological Seminary '06, and the granddaughter of George W. Arms, who ran the Nassau Inn until 1915.

She was a graduate of Duluth High School and Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pa. She also earned an MRE at New York Theological Seminary in 1933, and studied at the American University in Nanking from 1934 to 1936 and American Women's University in Cairo, Egypt, from 1937 to 1939.

She lived in Caracas, Venezuela; Lansdowne, Pa.; San Jose, Costa Rica; Calcutta, India; and Karachi, Pakistan before settling in Princeton from 1959 to 1991.

She worked as office manager for Dr. Arthur Tobolsky in the Princeton University Department of Chemistry until 1972.

A housewife, mother, missionary, and teacher, she was also an active volunteer at Princeton Hospital, where she contributed more than 4000 hours of service.

She was a member of Nas-

Continued on Next Page

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For more info. about the Baha'i Faith, call Wendy Kvalheim at 609-683-8929 or go to the web at www.bahai.org.
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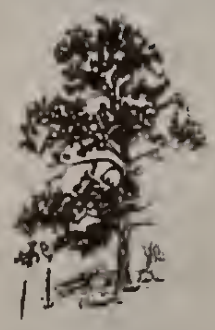

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FROM NEW ORLEANS TO PRINCETON: Forced to leave New Orleans after Katrina struck, Beverly Brown and her mother, Gloria Gray, have settled into an apartment provided by Princeton Community Housing, Inc., with the support and financial assistance of All Saints Church of Princeton.

Continued from Preceding Page

sau Presbyterian Church and the Present Day Club.

Predeceased in 1991 by her husband, John Frederick (Terry) Mason, she is survived by four children, Margaret W. (Mieke) Fischer of St. Croix, V.I., George S. Mason of New York City, Dr. John S. Mason of Nashville, Tenn., and Caroline J. Holmes of Carnation, Wash.; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was private on November 14 at Princeton Cemetery.

Arrangements were by The Kimble Funeral Home.

RELIGION

The **String of Pearls, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation** of Princeton will sponsor a community adult education event titled *What Does "One Nation Under God" Mean?* this Friday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m. The discussion will be moderated by Rabbi Daniel Brenner, Director of the Center for Multifaith Education at Auburn Theological Seminary.

For information about the event location, call Jane Milrod Jemas at (609) 683-8787 or visit www.stringofpearlsweb.org.

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8:00, 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.
INFANT/TODDLER CARE
8:45-12:30 p.m.
ADULT FORUM HOUR & SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:15 a.m.
COMPLINE: Sunday, Dec. 18 at 7:30pm

CHRIST CONGREGATION
50 Walnut Lane • Princeton
Jeffery Mays, Pastor • 921-6253
Affiliated with the United Church of Christ and the American Baptist Churches, USA
Worship Service at 10 a.m.
Fellowship at 11 a.m.
Education Hour at 11:15 a.m.

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
8:00 a.m. Radio Broadcast (WHWH 1350 AM)
9:15 a.m. Worship Service
Church School for all ages
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Worship Explorers (Age 4 through Grade 4)
(Child care available)
David A. Davis, Pastor
Lauren J. McFeaters, Associate Pastor
Marti Reed Hazelngg, Associate Pastor
Joyce MacKichan Walker, Director of Christian Education
Nancy Mikoski, Christian Education Consultant
James Litton, Interim Director of Music
Sue Ellen Page, Director of Choirs for Children and Youth
Maureen Franzen, Church Administrator
"One generation shall praise your works to another..." Psalm 145:4

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Princeton

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www.weichert.com

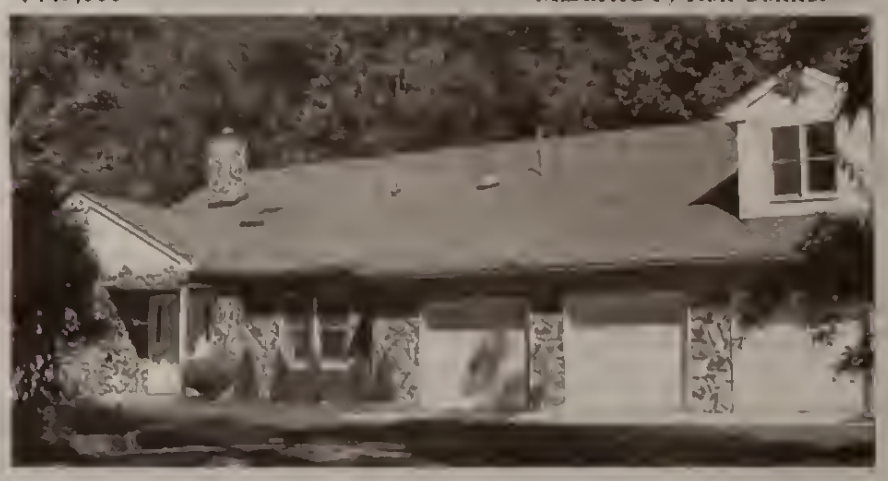
PRINCETON: Brand new 5 BR, 3 1/2 bath Colonial in Riverside nearing completion from Barsky Homes. Elegant 1st fl. plan with great flow, beautiful formal rooms, open family room, and a designer kitchen with breakfast room. All rooms sized and proportioned for elegant and spacious living with 10 ft. ceilings on the 1st. fl., 9 ft. on the 2nd., hardwood floors and so much more!
$1,729,000 *Marketed by Ron Connor*

LAWRENCE TWP.: Stunning back view of home shows this Contemporary Colonial with 5 BRs, 4 1/2 baths, set amidst 4 acres of expansive lawns and woodlands. Looking for generous living and entertaining space, lots of natural light and a refined informal feel? You've found your home here!
$1,250,000 *Marketed by Ingela Kostenbader & Denise Varga*

MONTGOMERY TWP.: Beautiful 4 BR, 2 1/2 bath Colonial with finished basement and lots of upgrades. Hardwood floors in the foyer, living and dining rooms. All appliances and window treatments included. All of this and Montgomery schools!
$575,000 *Marketed by Wen Bash*

PRINCETON: This house has it all! Set on 2+ lush acres, this stunning home features a large, bright, elegant kitchen; gorgeous downstairs master suite; plus 5 BRs upstairs (one an optional master). The downstairs includes a gracious living room, formal dining room, family room, & study with fireplace. Just minutes from downtown Princeton.
$1,649,000 *Marketed by Ron Connor*

PRINCETON: New Listing! Very well maintained 2 BR home with brand new kitchen w/stainless steel appliances, new hardwood floors throughout, new roof, car port, and a partially fenced yard. All this with radiant heat too!! Don't miss this ready to move in opportunity!
$449,000 *Marketed by Ron Connor*



PRINCETON: A Unique house on a park-like setting! This home is very spacious & the layout has a nice flow to it. Located on a 1.5 acre lot, on a quiet cul-de-sac this home has 5 BRs, 3 1/2 baths & a 3-car garage. Enjoy cooking during the holidays in the newly remodeled kitchen with NEW stainless steel appliances, granite countertops and maple cabinets!
$900,000 *Marketed by Ivy Huang*

MONTGOMERY TWP.: Absolutely perfect. This 3 BR Bainbridge model is ready for a new owner. The interior has been freshly painted, the carpet in the family room is brand new and the yard is gorgeous. Everything is neutral, the window treatments are all custom and it is in pristine condition.
$525,000 *Marketed by Anne Haas*

PRINCETON: A stunning transformation of a custom Colonial in Princeton's desirable Ridge section has just recently been completed. Custom baths, a designer kitchen, spacious bedrooms, oversized formal living room, fireplaces, triple crown molding and a bluestone covered patio are just some of the special details that make this home a true gem!
$1,495,000 *Marketed by Kathleen Murphy & Susan Eelman*

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11-02/02-22

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11-23/12-28

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08-03-tf

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02-01-06

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09-28-06

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Agent: Diane Detuelo Direct phone: 750-4124
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LAWRENCEVILLE — 4 BR, 2.5 BA Duplex, FR w/slider to deck, LR, DR, MBR w/whirlpool, 2 walk-in clos, full fin w/o bsmt, pool, tennis, near shops, major roads, public trans.
Agent: Riaz Siddiqui Direct phone: 799-8181
PRJ#0655 $449,900

PLAINSBORO — 3 BR, 2.5 BA Twn, End Unit, Kit w/appl, FR w/FP, fenced patio, 3rd fl loft w/skylt, walk-up attic, WW-P schools, near major rds, also avail to rent.
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Marketed by Margaret (Maggie) Hill **$599,000**

PRINCETON

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Marketed by Madolyn Greve **$1,145,000**

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP

Beautifully appointed Cherry Valley Club side (adult community) 2/3 bedroom home with gorgeous views of the woods. Stunning Kitchen with expanded sunroom opening to a 2 story family room w/fireplace. First fl. Master bedroom & office/library.

Marketed by Carolyn Spohn **$595,000**

PRINCETON

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Marketed by Laura Winroth **$790,000**

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Call 924-1600 **Marketed by: Violetta Adamidou**

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Call 924-1600 **Marketed by: Denise Mangini**

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Call 924-1600 **Marketed by: Violetta Adamidou**

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Call 924-1600 **Marketed by: Allan Potechin**

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Call (609) 799-2022 **Marketed by: Virginia Santana-Ferrer**

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Call (609) 799-2022 **Marketed by: Debbie Gribbin and Lorraine Rainier**

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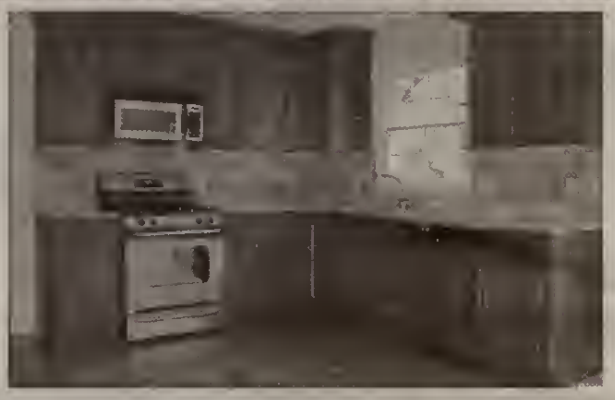

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Directions: Bridgepoint Road to Bayberry. Right to #50 Whippoorwill Way.

PRINCETON'S BEST KEPT SECRET! Discretely set on a gentle rise on Princeton's Ridge, this custom colonial is elegantly appointed and beautifully designed. Every room has been upgraded using quality materials and professional skill. Entertaining for 1 or 100 is made fun and easy in the off-the-charts kitchen. The kids will welcome the chance to hang out in the professionally finished lower level which, by the way, has a study and full bath in addition to a huge gameroom. You owe it to yourself to see this warm and special house. **$1,195,000**

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Words cannot adequately describe this Arts and Crafts style home located in the "sweet spot" of Hopewell Boro — but we're surely going to try! Built in 1917, this house features original woodwork and built-ins, three pairs of beautiful oak pocket doors and large windows, some of stained glass. Hardwood floors, many with beautiful parquetry, accentuate the elegant wooden staircase, balusters and banister. The front vestibule/foyer has original Lincrusta dado and tile floor and the dining room has a built in china cabinet with leaded glass. The current owner, as in love with the original workmanship as you will be, has installed custom designed and crafted cabinets, Italian granite countertops, farmhouse porcelain sink and state of the art appliances, including a Viking six burner range with double ovens and a Miele dishwasher. She retained noted local architect Max Hayden to add a family room, which has floor to ceiling windows, and French doors leading to the terrace. This addition is so cleverly designed it appears to be part of the original house. The second floor with four bedrooms has also been renovated with the same sensitivity to the 1917 origins of the house. Glowing wooden doors and glass doorknobs enhance the charming dressing room. The master bedroom has not only a balcony overlooking the gorgeous garden, it has two hammered copper sinks with Italian marble surrounding the sinks, shower and built in shower bench as well as an antique stained glass window. But wait — there's more! If your heart isn't beating wildly yet, it surely will be when you see the barn just waiting to become your study/office/studio and garage! They just don't make houses like this anymore, so if you are looking for a house with history, quality and charm, your search is over!

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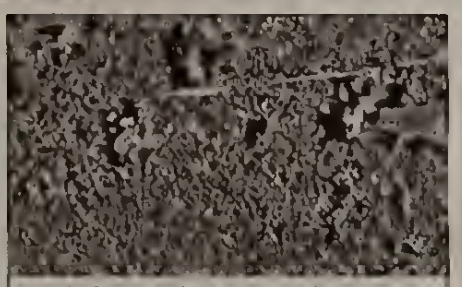

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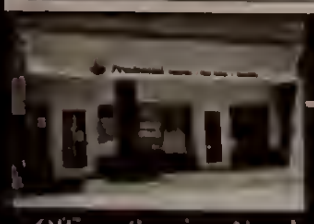

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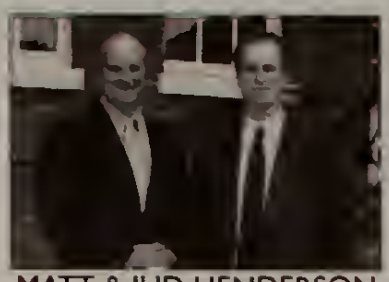

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Princeton University Health Services (UHS) seeks a part-time (~18.5 hrs/week) finance assistant to be responsible for providing support to Finance Manager in all aspects of UHS finances. This would include but not be limited to payroll, financial reports and analyses, year-end closing, A/P, and student employment.

Candidate should be a high-school graduate or equivalent plus additional schooling or comparable experience in accounting or finance related work. Candidate should have 3-5 years experience in the field. Computer proficiency is required, as well as an intermediate knowledge of Microsoft Excel. Candidate should possess the ability to work independently, take the initiative in problem solving, work with diverse population groups, handle multiple tasks and shifting priorities in a busy setting, be dependable and have strong interpersonal skills. Candidates for this position are subjected to a full background check.

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Princeton University

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12-14

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12-14

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07-06-tf

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11-30-3t

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12-07-2t

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12-14

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The Hun School of Princeton, Office of Institutional Advancement seeks a Database Administrator/Administrative Assistant to manage the fund-raising database system (Raiser's Edge) and provide administrative support to the Director of Annual Giving.

Attention to detail and proficiency in the Microsoft Office Suite required; experience with Raiser's Edge is preferred.

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12-14

REAL ESTATE AND YOU

By Tod Peyton

THE "FOR SALE" SIGN MEANS BUSINESS

Many people notice a "For Sale" sign in front of a house and call to get information about it. Statistics compiled by real estate firms around the country indicate that the majority of responses to Realtors' advertising come from calls generated by yard signs, and more buyers come from "sign inquiries" than any other marketing strategy.

A yard sign advertises that a house is for sale. It informs not only potential buyers, but also the neighbors. Often a neighbor will call about a property because they have friends, colleagues or relatives whom they would like to have move into the neighborhood. And it's not uncommon for a neighbor's inquiry to result in a sale. Prospective buyers who call for an appointment after seeing a yard sign already have a positive response to the exterior of the house and are eager to see the interior. If you are putting your home on the market and don't like the idea of having a sign in your yard, talk with your Realtor.

For dependable individual advice on buying or selling real estate, call Tod Peyton, Realtor or any Peyton Associate at 921-1550. Please feel free to stop by my office at 343 Nassau Street in Princeton.

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Princeton — On a premiere street in the Boro's western section, this handsome 4-bedroom home and 1 bedroom cottage. **$1,635,000**

Princeton — This 4-bedroom Victorian Duplex is a rare opportunity for in-town living on a quiet street. Renovated and updated. **$659,000**

Lawrence Township — In a gated community cul-de-sac, this residence has an apartment with separate entrance. Princeton address. **$825,000**

Princeton — This exceptional 1st floor 2-bedroom condominium is in a supremely convenient Princeton Borough location. **$550,000**

West Windsor — Just two years old, this 3-bedroom townhouse in Windsor Ponds offers an exceptional amount of living space. **$479,900**

Lawrence Township — The original Ashleigh Hall model home updated, renovated: new A/C and furnaces, roof, wood floors,decks. **$679,000**

Lawrenceville — Close to the center of the historic village, this 5-bedroom home is on a quiet street with a lovely landscape. **$890,000**

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PRT0641 **Elizabeth McGuire and Barbara Graham** **$719,000**

Princeton Landing.

Spacious Alexander single family tower model with atrium and first floor master in desirable Princeton Landing. Sun filled tower leads to light and bright two story family room with cathedral ceiling and fireplace. Master and second bedroom conveniently located on the first floor. Overlooking the family room is the second floor loft and third bedroom with private full bath for use as guest or au pair suite. Private rear deck facing trees. Full basement. Attached two car garage. Many amenities including swimming pools, tennis courts and walking paths. One year AON home warranty provided. Conveniently located in Plainsboro with Princeton mailing address.

PRT0675 **Patricia Cooke** **$619,000**

Princeton Ranch.

If you are looking for the ease of single floor living, this is the house for you. It has it all: living room with fireplace, bright kitchen, dining room, family room with vaulted ceiling. Separate wing for the four bedrooms and two updated baths. Bluestone patio connects the living room to the large, fenced yard. Extra storage off the laundry/mud room. Brand new heating system. All this on a quiet street in a friendly neighborhood in Princeton. Close to elementary, charter, middle and high schools, Princeton Shopping Center and town!

PRT0646 **Elizabeth Zuckerman** **$549,900**

Own A Bit of History.

Savor the past in this lovely historic home in Lawrenceville. Era features such as chestnut moldings, pocket doors and curved ceilings add traditional elegance and style. Gleaming oak hardwood floors flow seamlessly through double wide doorways. Generously proportioned rooms with nine foot ceilings will easily accommodate your entertaining needs. Outside the wrap-around porch is the perfect setting to enjoy majestic views of the private golf course. This home is a whisper from the past and has worn its years gracefully.

PRT0628 **William Chulamanis** **$549,900**

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Combining Holiday Shopping With Special Outings Is Fun For All

You've made the list and checked it twice. Now, the shopping is seriously underway, and you need a break. The list is still too long to take time off, however, so the perfect option is to combine shopping with something fun — whether a lunch with friends, a visit to the big city, taking in a movie in the mall, or if children are involved, a visit to Santa.

One friend laughs and says, "No way! When it's this busy, the most you can hope for is a cup of coffee and a nice croissant!"

That is not always the case, however, and indeed, combining shopping with an outing, especially if you are with friends or family, can be an enjoyable day or evening.

One of my favorite Christmas memories is accompanying my father to his office party in New York City. It was a lunchtime celebration, with lots of Christmas cookies, carols, and fun presents. Afterward, he and I checked out the windows on Fifth Avenue, visited the tree in Rockefeller Center and watched the skaters, and then shopped for a special gift for my mother. A daughter and dad outing can create special memories indeed.

Mother and daughter excursions are fun, too. A Princeton friend looks forward every year to a shopping expedition with her daughter. Sometimes, it's in downtown Princeton and stopping for lunch at one of the restaurants near Palmer Square, and looking at the tree. Other times, it's farther afield to Peddler's Village, New York, or Philadelphia.

In fact, she reports that the tradition began when her daughter was five, and they went to New York. "I remember she had the cutest little blue outfit on, and we went to FAO Schwarz, the big toy store. Then we went to see the tree in Rockefeller Center and to the restaurant by the skating rink. We couldn't get a table by the window, but two old ladies had Melissa come and sit by them so she could look out at the skaters. It gave us such a nice holiday feeling.

Worm Memories

"Melissa loves Christmas," continues her mother, who is a Christmas maven herself. "Also when she was small, we went to Philadelphia to the famous Wanamaker department store. It had an organ, and they played Christmas music, which we enjoyed. They also had a special children's room, and you could give your child $10 and someone would take him or her into the room to shop. The kids loved it. Afterward, she went to see Santa, and had her picture taken with him."

Another friend has similar warm memories of holiday shopping at Wanamaker's in Philadelphia. "There was this

Continued on Next Page

TREE OF LIGHT: This was the center of attention at Friday's 32nd Annual Tree of Light ceremony at the Lewis School. *(Photo by E.J. Greenblat)*

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SOUNDS OF THE SEASON: The Nassau Brass Band warmed things up at the snow-covered plaza of the Princeton Shopping Center last weekend.

(Photo by E.J. Greenblatt)

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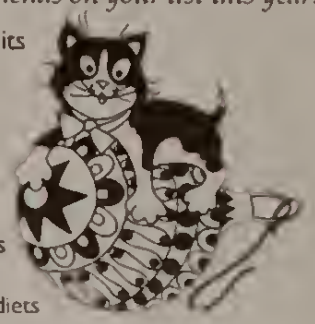

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Holiday Guide

Continued from Preceding Page

big statue of an eagle on a pedestal, and everyone would say 'I'll meet you at the eagle.' Then we would listen to the organ concert — they often had choirs from schools and colleges singing too — and then we'd head to the Crystal Tea Room for lunch. It was fun to shop in such a nice setting."

Memories of childhood so often surface during the holidays, and this same friend remembers her mother giving her a special treat. "She would take me to one of the big department stores in Philadelphia, which had a puppet show of 'The Nutcracker'. I loved this, and remember it still."

Visits to Santa are often part of shopping outings, and a Princeton resident, now a grandfather, clearly remembers taking his younger cousin to see Kris Kringle at Wanamaker's. "They had a wonderful Santa there, and we talked Dickie, my cousin, who was about five, into pulling Santa's whiskers to see if they were real. He sat on Santa's lap, went through his list, and then at the end, gave a tug on the whiskers to see if they were the real deal. And do you know, they were!"

The same gentleman remembers joining his father on an expedition to find a Christmas tree. "During World

Continued on Next Page

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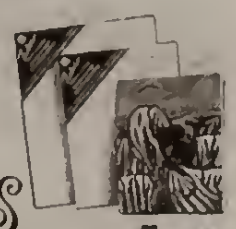

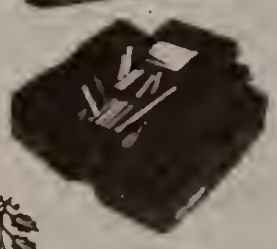

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Holiday Shopping Guide

Gifts For The Men In Your Life

Compact disc boxed sets of Bruce Springsteen's "Born to Run", "Talking Heads", and Rod Stewart's "Great American Songbook". Available at **The Princeton Record Exchange**, 20 South Tulane Street, 921-0881.

The famous Mississippi mud cake made from rich Belgian chocolate espresso, glazed with chocolate, and topped with holly garnish. A delicious trio of house roasted nuts including vanilla walnuts, cajun mixed nuts, and rosemary almonds. Available at **Main Street Kingston Bakery & Coffeehouse**, 56 Main Street, Kingston, 921-2778.

Warm, soft, Lone Pine Sun Valley II shearling coats, Vineyard Vine boxers in fun holiday patterns, and Burberry check cashmere scarves in six different colors. Available at **Nick Hilton**, 221 Witherspoon Street, 921-8160.

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Moleskin journals, notebooks and Princeton insignia neckties, mugs, hats, flip flops, and workout wear. Available at **Princeton University Store**, 36 University Place, 921-8500.

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Treat him to a spa experience, such as the Essential Back Treatment- a relaxing hour of deep cleansing, including a stimulation scrub, relaxing massage with steam, detoxifying mask, and warm towels for total rejuvenation. Available at **Metropolis Spa Salon**, 301 North Harrison Street, Princeton Shopping Center, 683-8388.

PARADE OF BEARS: The Princeton Senior Resource Center is hosting their 24th annual teddy bear project. The Salvation Army has supplied the center with approximately 100 bears, to be dressed by participants at the center and put on display in shop windows on Nassau Street. Tuesday, December 20, Santa will deliver the bears to children at the Princeton Nursery School on Leigh Avenue. Additional bears will be returned to the Salvation Army to be given to children in shelters throughout New Jersey, including children who were displaced by hurricane Katrina. For additional information call (609) 924-7108.

Holiday Guide

Continued from Preceding Page

War II, there weren't as many trees, and I went into Philadelphia with my dad looking for one. It was Christmas Eve or the day before, and the supply was really limited. We finally found one by 10 or 11 that night, and we took it home on the train! I was so glad we found one, and especially with my father. He made Christmas quite wonderful for all the children, and this was a highlight."

Another friend, a math teacher, tells of a very successful shopping outing for her pre-teen daughter and her friends. She gave each girl $5, and drove them to the nearest Dollar store. The participants were asked to buy presents for their family members and friends. The person who bought the most presents and came closest to the $5 total won a gift certificate to the local ice cream store. This not only kept the kids occupied and entertained, it reinforced math skills!

Diamond Earrings

A nearby neighbor tells of her young son's shopping experiences. "We always gave our kids an extra allowance at Thanksgiving to go Christmas shopping. When they were little, they had a lot of big ideas, but not much money. That's where the Five and Ten — Woolworth's — (missed by so many to this day!) was so important. You could get a lot of little inexpensive presents there, and kids could shop to their heart's content.

"So, our son asked his grandmother what she wanted, and she replied, 'diamond earrings.' He searched and searched, and finally in Woolworth's — definitely his store of choice — he found a pair of rhinestone earrings for $2.95. He gave them to her, and she was delighted, and wore them for him every Christmas."

Children and Santa stories are plentiful, and another neighbor tells of her little boy who first visited Santa at Bam-

Continued on Next Page

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Holiday Guide

Continued from Preceding Page

berger's in the Princeton Shopping Center many years ago. "Then we moved to Scotland for a year, and during the holidays we went to Jenners, a big store in Edinburgh. Santa was presiding on the lower level, and when Rob looked down and saw him, he ran down the stairs and right up to Santa, calling out, 'Santa! Santa! I saw you last year in Princeton!' Santa went right along with it, explaining that he got around to many places."

Princeton's proximity to New York and Philadelphia makes visits to these cities a special opportunity for shopping and enjoying the sights at the same time. Just the train ride is a treat for kids, and even for some grown-up out-of-towners. As a former Princetonian, now in Arizona, reports. "I was amazed at how many of my friends here and my children's friends, have never been on a train!"

Another Princetonian, who formerly lived in a Detroit suburb, shares this opinion. "In Detroit, the emphasis is on cars, so people mostly drove. For something special during the holidays, one of the big things was for two or three mothers to go to the train station and take their kids on the train into the city to see the Christmas lights. Then we'd go to the biggest department store, which had 'Christmas Land' — a maze of lights and little villages, with a path leading to Santa. It was a wonderful day for the kids, and the moms had fun shopping."

When the family moved to Princeton, they continued the

Continued on Next Page

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TOASTING TO A GOOD CAUSE: The Princeton Child Development Institute (PCDI) held a trunk show recently at Hopewell Valley Vineyards to raise funds for people with autism. A participating vendor, Simply Savvy Jewelry & Accessories, is shown at the vineyard. PCDI is a private, nonprofit program offering a broad spectrum of science based services to children, youths, and adults with autism. For additional information call (609) 924-6280 or visit www.pcdi.org.

FASHION FLAIR: Hedy Shepard, Ltd. offers fashion forward choices for the holidays. Lace, velvet, and Lurex provide an enticing look for all those upcoming parties and in a variety of colors. Black is always important, but this season, color is a must, and accents of glitter heighten the appeal. Belts, belts, belts! Worn over sweaters and blouses, even jackets, Hedy's variety of belts embellish an outfit and sparkle like jewelry. Shearling coats and gloves and cashmere are holiday favorites, and for lucky travelers to southern shores, the selection of resort wear is irresistible. Jewelry at Hedy Shepard is extraordinary for the holidays. Costume and semi-precious earrings, necklaces, and bracelets will enhance any look, and the artistic jewelry designs of M & J Savitt and Sorrelli are among the choices. New this year at Hedy Shepard is an assortment of outstanding giftware from The Pink Daisy in Yardley.

Holiday Guide

Continued from Preceding Page

train tradition, riding into New York City. "We'd take the train into Penn Station, go to 34th Street, walk along to Macy's, stop for a little shopping, and then pass by the Empire State Building. If it was a nice day, we'd ride up to the top and see the great New York view. Then we'd walk on to see the Altman's department store windows and sometimes go in and have tea.

Fifth Avenue

"Next, we would continue up Fifth Avenue to see the wonderful Lord & Taylor windows with the moving figures, and sometimes we'd go inside. The kids loved to ride the escalator and look down at the other floors. Going on up to Rockefeller Center, it was beautiful to see the Promenade with the angels leading to the tree and the ice skating rink. One time, we had lunch at the restaurant there, and then went to the Christmas show at Radio City Music Hall. Then, we'd walk back to the station and get the train home, after a really very special day."

A New York City resident points out some fun holiday excursions a bit off the beaten track. For example, visits to Orchard Street and Chinatown. "Start at Canal Street and walk down Mott Street. You can get all kinds of good deals on clothing, home furnishings, and leather goods, and walk the length of the street and listen to the vendors yell, 'Check it out, check it out!' until a price and item suit you. Prices, by the way, are negotiable."

He also suggests taking in a West Side flea market. "Flea markets are great places to find unique items for little money. The largest market I know of is Greenflea at 77th Street and Columbus Avenue; you can find everything from beautiful craftwork to people's old junk to antique silver there. It's Sunday only from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"Also," he adds, "don't forget to walk through the Plaza Hotel to Fifth Avenue and then browse the beautiful Saks' windows. Nearby is St. Patrick's Cathedral and St. Thomas' Church, with magnificent choral singing at many times of the day and night. If

Continued on Next Page

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SIGNATURE SELECTION: Judy Guldalian, co-owner of the Piccadilly, stands beside a display of the store's popular Vera Bradley line of bags and accessories. Shown is the Nantucket pattern, including overnight bag, small duffle, backpack, rolling duffle, and rolling carry-on. Part of the proceeds from purchases of certain Vera Bradley patterns and items, including the new travel alarm clock, goes to breast cancer research. The shop also specializes in the full line of Leon Levin shirts, sweaters, and pants, the famous Lanz flannel nightgowns, and updated classic fashion, including lovely knits, suitable for day to evening to parties. Four-piece ensembles are wonderfully versatile, and super hand-knit wool or cotton cardigans, some with zipper front, can dress up or down. A black knit jacket with rhinestone trim is perfect with a silver Lurex top. The Piccadilly is also known for its beautiful all-silk, silk-screened scarves and an eclectic jewelry selection, including pearls with magnet clasp and both clip and pierced earrings.

Holiday Guide

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time allows, a quick walk up Fifth to the entrance to Central Park will bring you to the skating rink and the zoo. Both a pleasure!"

Happy holiday shopping outings can be nearby, as well. A favorite for many in Princeton is a visit to Peddler's Village in Buck's County. With landscaped gardens and a mix of 75 shops and restaurants, an inn, year-round festivals and craft competitions, and an antique operating carousel, it is a festive place during the holidays. A display of nearly one million(!) lights illuminate the Village at night, and there are dozens of gingerbread house creations located along the winding brick pathways. On weekends, children can look forward to Santa's visits.

A Princeton friend remembers a visit to Peddler' Village that established an important holiday tradition for her. "I love to go there to shop before Christmas, and in one store, I noticed a June McKenna collectible Santa. I thought about it and thought about it, and finally decided to get it. That was my first Santa, and now I have at least 50 in all sizes, shapes, and types. Peddler's Village is fun because of the wonderful decorations, and their stores have things you can't find anywhere else."

Outlet Shopping

If you like outlet shopping, an outing to Flemington's Liberty Village is another option. With 60 outlet stores in a charming village setting, it offers a variety of shopping opportunities, from Brooks Brothers Factory Store and Calvin Klein to Waterford and Wedgewood to Timberland and L.L. Bean. Special events and volunteer holiday entertainment, such as choral

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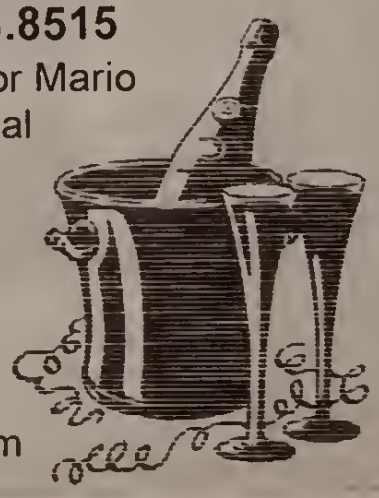

Holiday Guide

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groups, and weekend visits from Santa, are ongoing during the holidays.

Don't forget the mall. It is a great place for variety. Adults can find shops to please them, teens can find a movie which will entertain them, and the younger children can have fun on the merry-go-round and other rides. Never underestimate the pleasure for kids of just seeing the sights.

Farther away, but worth the trip for many is a trip to Bethlehem, Pa. Founded by the Moravians in the 1700s, the city remains a wonderful holiday experience. The huge Bethlehem star shines from atop the mountain outside of town, and lighted at night, it is an impressive sight. Every bridge is decorated with Christmas trees, and there are art galleries and many stores, as well as the unique area craft show, to tempt the shopper. And dining at the special Hotel Bethlehem is a treat.

So, check that list. There's still plenty of time to get your shopping done and enjoy a special outing at the same time.

—Jean Stratton

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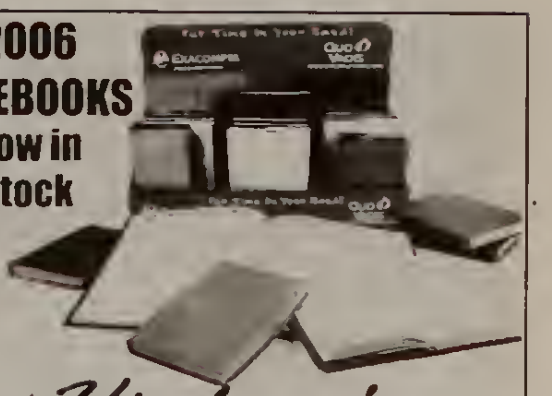

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BASKING IN THE HOLIDAY LIGHT: The snow on the ground may be cold but the not the wealth of holiday light at the Lewis School of Princeton's 32nd annual Tree of Light Celebration. (Photo by E.J. Greenblatt)

Holiday Birthdays: How to Make Them Special Amid the Holiday Festivities

About those pesky holiday birthdays! Some are fine; if you are born on the Fourth of July, you get to celebrate with the nation and enjoy the fireworks. February is OK. It's kind of a dull month, but sharing birthdays with Washington, Lincoln, and St. Valentine adds a certain historical and romantic panache.

Spring, summer, and fall are usually fine, too, because there are generally no major conflicts. But Christmas birthdays are truly a challenge. One is hard put to separate them from the major December 25th event, and it is sad but true that many times the birthday boy or girl with a late December natal day can be neglected. Sometimes, it's half the presents (one gift serving for Birthday and Christmas), one Merry/Birthday card, a fruitcake with candles instead

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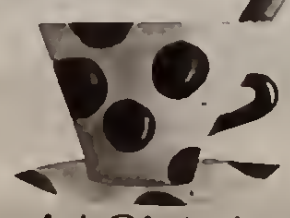

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Holiday Guide

Continued from Preceding Page

of a favorite chocolate cake ... and the list goes on.

How to keep the birthday celebration from being swept under the tree skirt? Here are some tips from those who know!

"The first rule of giving presents to a Christmas baby is Never, Never give a combined, kill-two-birds-with-one-stone birthday/holiday gift," says a December 29th birthday boy, now grown-up and living in Princeton. "As a boy born between Christmas and New Year's Day, I know all too well the mixed emotions of getting the infamous highly efficient combo gift. I hasten to add that my immediate family kept those celebrations separate, including the gifting. But all too often, certain friends and relatives sent a combo gift and card. Sure, I appreciate that someone thinks enough of me to buy me a present in the first place. But the combo gift also reminds me that — get out the violins — I don't have my very own special day where people come together just to celebrate me and my existence on this planet!

My Birthday

"Another annoying thing about being born on or near Christmas" he continues, "is the clerk who, in perusing the driver's license, exclaims, 'Oh, a Christmas baby!' like you're a little elf or something. But no, I'm not bitter. Fortunately, there are other people out there with the Christmas birthday dilemma with whom I can commiserate. Bill Krumbein, a retired park ranger from Santa Rosa (born Dec. 25), has assembled a website for children of the wreath. 'To Be Born on Christmas: Bummer or Blessing.' Children from around the world send him their complaints about having to share their special day with the world."

So why do kids and adults born on or near Christmas feel so gypped? Explains Mr. Krumbein: "The kid in us enjoys a birthday; but when the kid in us was still a kid,

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Belize — Located on the Caribbean coastline South of Mexico. Here you can cruise the New River where you'll see crocodiles, exotic birds, and howler monkeys. Experience temples, stone caves, Mayan ruins, 1 000 foot jungle falls, a zoo with over 100 native animals, and diving and snorkeling in the world's second largest barrier reef.

Turks and Caicos — eight islands and many small cays make up the Turk & Caicos Islands. Providenciales is the most developed and offers breathtaking nature preserves and stunning sites including salt lakes, caves, and limestone cliffs.

Curacao — a place where tropical charm, Latin style, a proud African heritage and European sophistication meet in the Caribbean. The streets of historic Willemstad are now a Unesco World Heritage site. The fun shines night and day on pristine beaches, world-class dive sites, unique family attractions, historic monuments, museums and golf courses.

Tahiti and her islands — These islands are staggeringly beautiful, unspoiled, sparsely populated, and the locals are incredibly friendly. Tahiti and Her Islands are a fantasy island chain of extreme diversity. Lush volcanic mountains and black cliff faces jut forth from bottomless seas and captivating, coral atolls. Powder blue waters teem with aquatic life. Tahiti has ancient Polynesian cultures, imposing tiki effigies, archaeological treasures and a remoteness and tranquility only dreamt of in today's frenetic world.

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FAMILY FOOTWEAR: Keeping toes toasty is a Hulit's specialty. Boots are a must now, and Ryan Simone, Bernadette Maguire, and Chuck Simone (owner) are shown beside a display of the very popular Uggs boots for women. Boots for the entire family are available, including Santana for women, Blondo for men and women, as well as the popular Lariat cowboy boots, and Sorel snow boots. Timberland are favorites for men and women, and kids can choose from a colorful selection. Slippers are another big holiday item, and Uggs and Haflinger boiled wool slip-ons are in demand, as well as Hush Puppies, Minnetonka moccasin-style, and Acorn Slipper Sox. Women love the Beautifeel dress shoes, and Johnston & Murphy and Bostonian dress shoes for men are always favorites. Comfort is key today, and it is found in such lines as Clarks for men and women, ecco (dress/comfort) for men, and the Merrell line for the whole family. Socks of all kinds are a great stocking stuffer, and new this year is a selection of sheepskin hats.

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having that special day one can call 'all mine; should be a birthright. My birthday."

But, as my friend points out, "Glass-full optimists insist there is a good side to being born on Christmas. No school, no work, and the family is always together for your birthday (I'm not sure if everyone considers this a bonus). Most Christmastime kids I know find their special birthday a blessing, however. Nearly everyone is in a good mood at that time of year, and I usually find people most generous with their praise and gifts.

"To sum up, here are a few tips for parents on how to appease the Christmas kid in their lives: set aside time for opening only birthday presents. Give true birthday cards; never give a Christmas card with a scribbled 'Happy Birthday' on it. Don't wrap birthday gifts in Christmas paper. Never give a combination birthday/Christmas gift. And please, a real birthday cake, not fruitcake or a slice of pumpkin pie with a candle!"

Continued on Next Page

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WINTER SCENE: Jeff Baumley, owner of Baumley Landscaping & Garden Center, is shown with one of his custom wreaths, including three varieties of greens, natural winterberries, holly, juniper berries, natural cones, and boxwood. Baumley's balsam and fraser cut trees range from table top to 12 feet, and Norway and Colorado blue spruce live balled trees are also available. Custom mixed specialty roping and standard white pine roping are other specialties. Baumley's cozy Christmas shop is filled with decorated theme trees, an array of poinsettias of every color, mistletoe, and all the do-it-yourself decorating items. Also available are retired New England and Dickens Villages collections, as well as ornaments, lighting and decorating supplies. Complimentary hot cider and cookies await visitors.

Holiday Guide

Continued from Preceding Page

The mother of a boy born on December 26 says she worked hard to make sure that his day was special, although inevitably, it was surrounded by holiday decorations and revelry. "In our family," she points out, "birthdays are always celebrated by all of us, on the day, if at all possible. In this case, it was not always easy to have a birthday party the day after Christmas. Other children are not always around. And also, you need to bake the birthday cake Christmas night!

"The party has to be indoors, and small children can become quite wild. In fact, if it is possible, I recommend taking them to some of the places available for kids now, if they are old enough. One advantage to this birthday, however, is that no one ever forgets it!"

Bigger Deal

As the boy in question got older, he always had a special dinner: shrimp cocktail and

Continued on Next Page

FESTIVE FRAMING: Abby Frantz, owner of the Hopewell Frame Shop, stands in front of paintings from the store's current exhibit, featuring the watercolors of Flemington artist Beatrice Bork, who specializes in birds and animals. Framing for Christmas is still an option, but the sooner the better, reports Ms. Frantz. Framed mementoes, art, photos, and needlepoint are all popular for holiday gifts, and Ms. Frantz can select the perfect frame for the piece. Frames of every possible description are available, from simple to elaborate, and Ms. Frantz also has a new computerized mat cutter, enabling her to create hundreds and hundreds of new designs in cut art. In addition to frames, the shop offers a variety of artwork for sale, and includes regular shows ot artists. A selection of Princeton town and gown images, antique engravings and botanicals, framed Currier & Ives prints of George and Martha Washington, and a collection of 100-year-old maps of New Jersey are among the many items.

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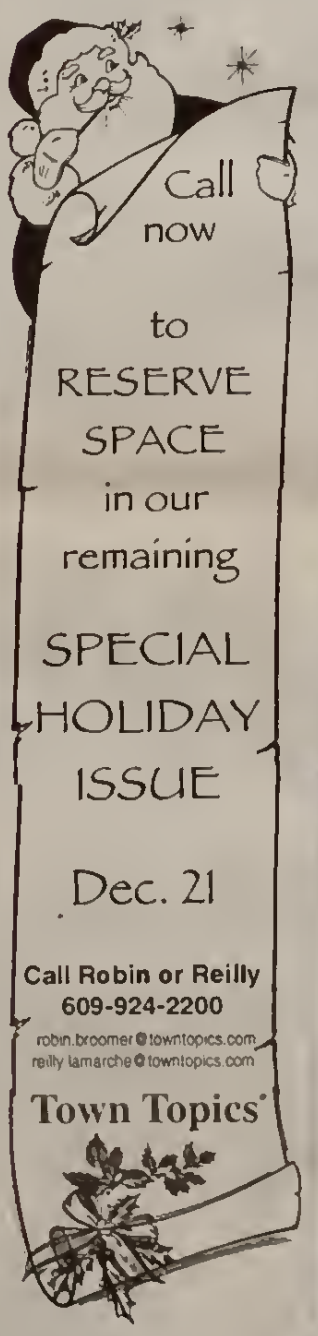

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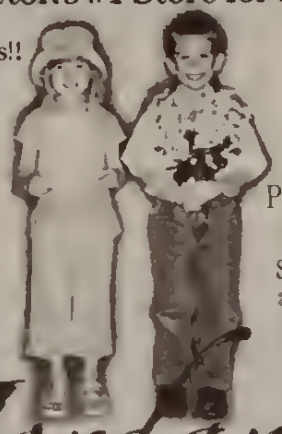

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Holiday Guide

Continued from Preceding Page

roast beef, and he has good memories of his birthday celebration. "As a child, I remember my parents and relatives always made a special effort to remember my day. There was always a second day of presents and the birthday dinner for me. It never felt as if it was forgotten or overshadowed by Christmas. My mother always kidded and said that Christmas the year I was born was the last Christmas she was every really ready for since she had to be prepared for my arrival.

"I did feel, however that it might have been more fun sometimes to have my birthday during the school year. Since December 26 always fell during Christmas vacation, I was never around my school friends on that day. Others, it seemed to me, had a bigger deal made of their birthday if it occurred during a normal school day. Even so, I remember my parents always having a birthday party with my friends at our house.

"Sometimes, I remember thinking it must be nice to

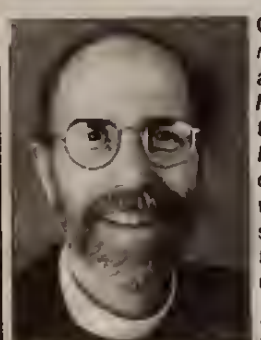
Continued on Next Page

FAMILY FOCUS: The Peterson family, from left, Charles III, Charles Jr., and Liz, can help customers find just the right tree, wreath, and roping for their holiday decorations. This long-time nursery and garden center has a full selection of cut and live trees, such as blue spruce, balsam, Douglas, fraser, and concolor fir, as well as wreaths of all kinds, including custom wreaths decorated to order. The greenhouse is filled with a gorgeous display of poinsettias of every color, size, and type. Cyclamen and Christmas cactus are other specialties, and miniature roses, azaleas, and miniature African violets are also available. A charming greenhouse, featuring a gazebo, bridge over a pond, and fountains, offers an oasis of tranquility in the midst of holiday shopping. Peterson's Christmas Shop, always a visual pleasure, is filled with a colorful display of decorated trees, ornaments (including special hand-painted Old World Christmas), and one-of-a-kind Santas collectibles and snowmen.

Advice for daily living
Family Advice Column:

Priceless Presents

By the Rev. Peter K. Stimpson



The Rev. Peter K. Stimpson

QUESTION: *Christmas makes me feel like such a loser. All anyone ever thinks about is how many presents they're getting and how much they cost. I'm just an ordinary guy who doesn't have much to give his wife and kids. I come out of this season of greed just thinking that I just don't measure up. Can you help me?*

ANSWER: Like millions of others, you have fallen into the materielistic trap of thinking thet your value as a person is based upon how you make and spend. While all of us will do our best to buy gifts for our family, try to think of some meaningful and priceless presents that you can give to your wife and children thal will not fade, rust, or end up in the back of the closet. Consider giving YOU as a gift, offering your family your:

1. TIME: There is only so much of you to go around. Rethink who you donate you to, perhaps culling back here or there so as lo be able to take your wife out for a walk and a talk, to show up al your daughter's school play, or just stay at home, rent a video, and enjoy each other's company.

2. EMPATHY: Instead of getting defensive when your wife or child tells you of their angry or hurt feelings, work hard to listen intenlly to how they are feeling, summarizing what they said and felt to make sure that you got il right. Whether it be your wife arguing for a new kitchen table or your teenage son for a later curfew, put yourself in their shoes before trying to give your knee-jerk reaction. Whether you end up buying the table or bending on the curfew, your wife and son will know that you care enough to listen.

3. PATIENCE: Waiting without blowing your top while your preschool daughter ties her shoes before you take her to daycare helps her to develop autonomy and you to develop tolerance for life's ups and downs. Your lower blood pressure will mean less arguments at home, less stress on the job, and more happiness for you.

4. SMILE: Instead of being grumpy, cynical, and an old grouch, try forcing yourself to smile a little bit each day. Amazingly, you will find that it is somewhat contagious, your wife and children exchanging their sad frowns for a happy face, and you yourself reframing what you thought was "a disastrous problem" into "a challenging opportunity". Gradually, you will be turning your family into optimists and problem solvers, for which all of us will thank you.

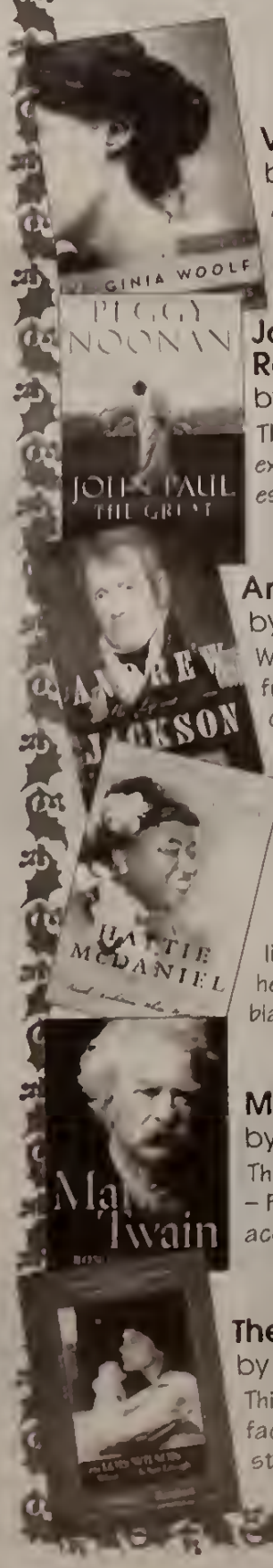
So, my advice is that you stop worrying about what you cannot buy, and start thinking about how you impact on your family, more so than teacher, peer, movie, or book. You have the ability to give them the priceless gift of yourself, which you will not find at Macy's or Toys R' Us, or even at the North Pole, just under your own nose.

This Wellness column is funded through the generosity of a grant from the ***J. Seward Johnson, Sr. Charitable Trusts****. If you would like Father Stimpson to answer a question of yours on family life, daily living or emotional health, you can write to him at: Trinity Counseling Service, 22 Stockton Street, Princeton, NJ 08540. Trinity Counseling Service provides clinical or pastoral counseling on a sliding fee scale for all who need help and support. Phone Trinity Counseling Service at 609-924-0060 to set an appointment.*

Biographies for Holiday Giving

Barnes & Noble Princeton

Recommended by Nancy Nicholson



Virginia Woolf: An Inner Life
by Julia Briggs
A convincing and moving portrayal of a literary genius and a brilliant meditation on the nature of creativity.

John Paul the Great: Remembering a Spiritual Father
by Peggy Noonan
The best-selling author of When Character Was King has created an extraordinary portrait and celebration of one of the world's greatest religious leaders.

Andrew Jackson: His Life and Times
by H.W. Brands
We look back to the founding fathers for inspiration for the future – add this new biography to the collection of American History lovers.

Hattie McDaniel: Black Ambition, White Hollywood
by Jill Watts
McDaniel said, "I'd rather play a maid than be a maid" learn little known aspects of her life and why Ebony Magazine hailed her as an "achiever of more firsts" in Hollywood than any other black entertainer of her time.

Mark Twain: A Life
by Ron Powers
The story of Twain's life mirrors the life of the creation of America – Powers has created a tour de force biography received with acclaim by critics and readers.

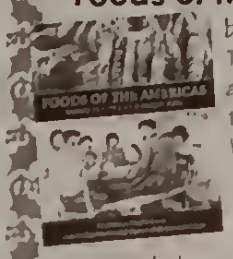
The Lois Wilson Story: When Love is Not Enough
by William C. Borchert
This biography of the co-founder of Al-Anon is inspiration for anyone facing problems of addiction. The author will discuss his work at our store on January 18, 2006.

Entertainment Books for Holiday Giving

Princeton University Store

Recommended by Anthony Johnson and Diane Vilano

Foods of the Americas: Native Recipes and Traditions by Fernando Divina and Marlene Divina.

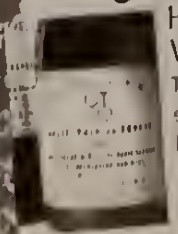


The culinary traditions of the native peoples of the Americas are celebrated in this lavish book produced in association with the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. Written by chef Fernando Divina and Marlene Divina, who is of Chippewa heritage, this book presents 140 modern recipes that incorporate a wide array of foods cultivated by native people throughout North and South America. The book also includes nine illustrated short essays by native writers that provide an American Indian perspective on a variety of indigenous food traditions. The book includes a comprehensive, illustrated cookbook with 140 recipes dedicated to the native ingredients and traditions of the Americas and 24 full-color food photographs and 30 images from the Smithsonian's vast collections.

Christmas Entertaining by Georgeanne Brennan

Christmas is a time for entertaining, and, for the host, that means hours spent planning, shopping, cooking, and decorating the house. With a good guidebook in hand, the work of holiday entertaining can be one of the joys of the season. In *Christmas Entertaining*, you'll discover everything you need to know to welcome guests into your home with style and ease. Organized around six festive holiday occasions, this book provides complete menus and decorating ideas, all designed to fit the way people like to entertain and spend time together today: a cozy Fireside Cocktail Party; an Italian Christmas Eve supper; a chic Christmas Eve in the City; a lavish, traditional New England Christmas; a sparkling Snow Country Breakfast; and a casual New Year's Day Open House.

Judgment of Paris: California vs. France and the Historic 1976 Paris Tasting That Revolutionized Wine by George Taber



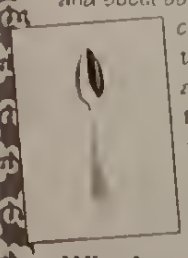
Told for the first time by the only reporter present, this is the true story of the legendary Paris Tasting of 1976 - a blind tasting where French judges shocked the industry by choosing unknown California wines over France's best — and its revolutionary impact on the world of wine.

Moosewood Restaurant Simple Suppers: Fresh Ideas for the Weeknight Table by Moosewood Collective

When Moosewood Restaurant first opened in upstate New York in 1973, some people dismissed the collective-run eatery as a silly hippie venture that was sure to fold. More than 30 years later, the vegetarian restaurant not only prospers; it has become the hub of a vegetarian and health conscious movement. *Moosewood Restaurant Simple Suppers* shows why the name has earned such trust. Its 150 plus recipes include ingredient suggestions and cooking notes, tips for substitutions and even notes on repurposing leftovers. Even meat eaters can learn something from this book

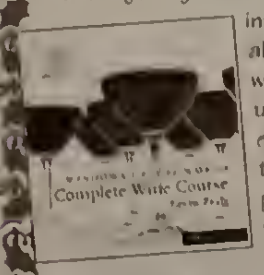
The Silver Spoon by Various Contributors

What could be rarer and more welcome than a classic you have never heard of? For more than 50 years, The Silver Spoon has been the most influential and successful cookbook in Italy. The original concept was simple: A team of cooking experts traveled to every Italian region in search of choice traditional recipes. Then they updated ingredients, quantities and methods to adapt the meals to contemporary tastes. Now, translated for the first time, this 1,000-page, 2,000-recipe treasure has been adapted for an international audience and presented in a new, user-friendly format. It takes its rightful place beside *The Joy of Cooking* and *Larousse Gastronomique*.



Windows on the World Complete Wine Course 2006 Edition: A Lively Guide by Kevin Zraly

Kevin Zraly, America's premier wine expert and teacher, takes the intimidation and mystery out of choosing and drinking wine. He presents a wealth of information that both novices and experts can learn about grapes, the winemaking process and how to taste wine. This special 20th anniversary edition is completely updated with current wine labels, lists, and pricing and entirely redesigned to make information easier than ever to find. Lavishly illustrated with maps and stunning color photographs, it beautifully illuminates the whole world of wine – from vineyards to wine production. Windows on the World Complete Wine Course now also includes Zraly's incisive review of the last twenty years of major developments in wine and his thoughts on where winemaking is headed. With a unique flair and fresh approach to the subject, Zraly takes you on a country-by-country, region-by-region "best-buy" ratings tour of the latest vintages. You'll appreciate his lighthearted style, glossary of wine terms, tips on stocking and serving wine at home, and ordering it in restaurants-including the how's and why's of the "tasting ritual" and why you should never be intimidated by it. You'll also find out how Burgundy differs from Cabernet Sauvignon, which are the best vintages for a California Pinot Noir, which foods best complement a Chardonnay, and much more. It's a uniquely intoxicating trek through the world of wine that will turn you into an enthusiastic expert.



have a birthday in the warmer months and to get 'warmer weather' presents instead of the practical winter clothes or indoor books/games, etc., suitable for December gifts in New Jersey and New York. However, I do recall that one of my very favorite presents was a sled, which would have done me no good if given in June!

"My wish did come true, however, several years later and six times over once my own children started coming. I did and do get to celebrate a summer holiday: Father's Day!

"Finally, as I think back on this over the years, I have two other memories, in contrast to my siblings, my own kids and friends, I was lucky since I never had to spend my birthday in school all day. I always had most of my close family around me to play with or hang out with the whole day. Most people whose birthdays don't fall on a holiday don't have that luxury. And last, from a religious perspective, I remember people occasionally telling me how nice it was to have a birthday so close to the birthday of Jesus, which is truly what Christmas is about."

Another boy, about to be 10 on December 27, looks forward to his special day because his family has made a point of focusing just on him. "It's fun because I'm home, and all the family is here with me," he reports.

Whole Works

"We always celebrate on his day, with separate presents, cake, the whole works," explains his mother. "One thing I do now though is to have his party the first weekend in January. So many people are busy or away in December, but in January, there's not as much going on. Plus, it gives Steven more time to enjoy it because it extends the fun. We have fun little traditions: birthday placemats, a special birthday song (in addition to 'Happy Birthday'), and we always read 'Happy Birthday To you' by Dr. Seuss. The other kids all make a card, and it is fun to see what they write.

"Also, one interesting perspective is that our other kids say he's lucky because he never has to go to school on his birthday. Also, lots of

Continued on Next Page

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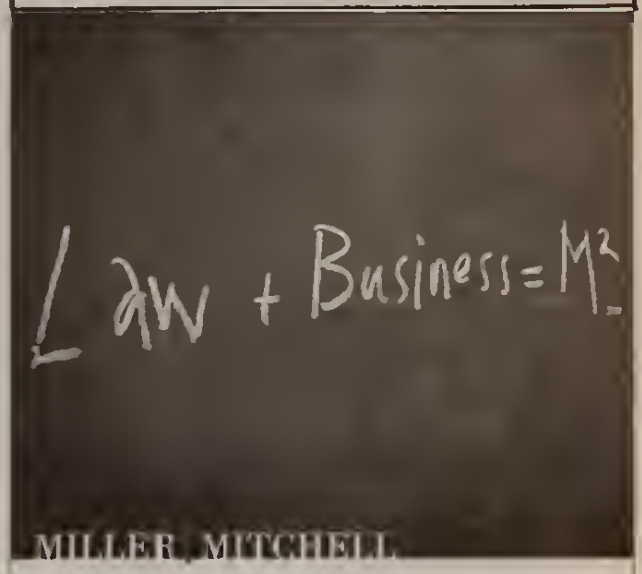

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Holiday Birthdays

Continued from Preceding Page

times, we are around our extended family."

A Princeton friend, born on the 25th, remembers that her parents had a special table for her birthday gifts in the playroom, not where the Christmas tree was set up. Instead of 'Here's your gift for Christmas, and — oh, yes, — your birthday, too!' she was treated each year to her own bridge table, which had been set up with a paper 'Happy Birthday' cloth, birthday napkins, plates, etc. The table was laden with gifts, wrapped in paper with her favorite pink and yellow colors. Her holiday gifts were under the tree with those of the rest of the family.

Another friend recalls that her Christmas Eve birthday was never lumped together with that next day holiday. "My parents prepared a special brunch for me on Christmas Eve morning, and I selected the menu. The meal was served at a table decorated with a birthday theme, and there was always a special birthday cake. Absolutely no trace of traditional holiday decorations! Just pink candles and balloons, a cake with yellow roses. This was clearly MY celebration, and I'll never forget it!"

And for the birthday that occurs a few days before Christmas, a neighbor has devised a simple solution to see that her daughter's Dec. 22 birthday doesn't fall between the holiday cracks. No holiday decorations are put up in their house until after the birthday. No wreath, tree, garlands, Santa, snowman, reindeer, angels, etc. Then, on the 23rd, it's a rush to get everything ready.

But the point is to separate the holiday celebration from the birthday celebration. "My late December birthday is just as important as yours in July!" said my cousin, and indeed it is. With a little imagination, creativity, and common sense, those December birthday celebrations can be just as special as those in every other month of the year. And above, all, remember — no combo gifts, cards, or fruitcake!

—Jean Stratton

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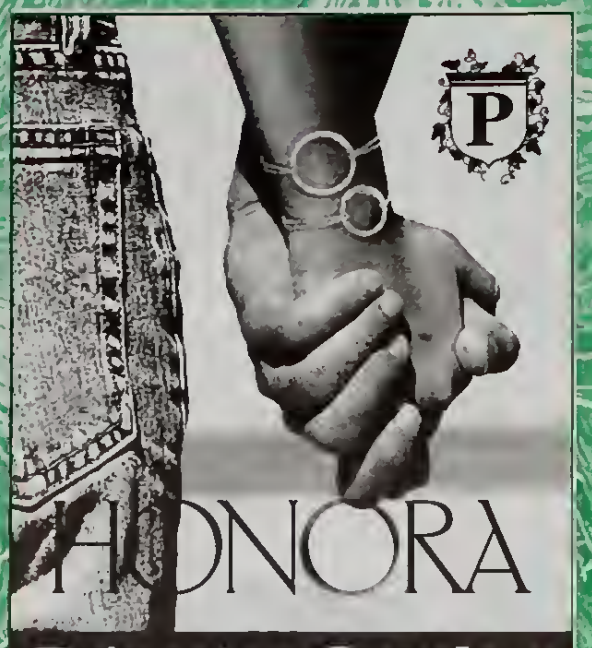

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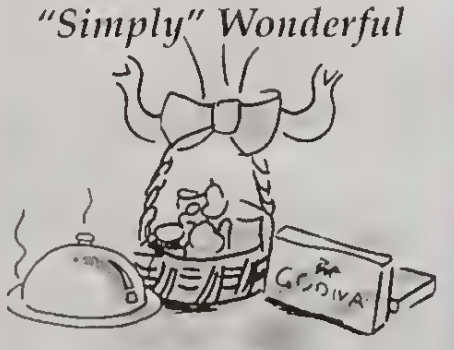

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